THE INDEPENDENT

'The last time I saw this man he was throwing grenades and shooting a pistol at us. Today he meets the Secretary of State.'



Michael Stone (right), the man the author last saw throwing grenades in 1988, and Sam McCrory, in H block number 8 of the Maze yesterday

The last time I saw Michael Stone, in 1988, he was throwing fragmentation grenades and firing a Browning automatic pistol at a crowd of us at a republican funeral in

Belfast's Milliown cemetery. Yesterday he stood in the corridor of H-block number 8 in the Maze prison, evidently a more thoughtful man, and reflected: "It's all about dialogue and that's what we've been pushing. If we can get through the current situation, anything's possible."

Today Stone will be one of four Ulster Defence Association prisoners sitting across the table from Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northem Ireland, to tell her of their concerns about the peace process. The unprecedented meeting could be vital in helping persuade loyalists to maintain their three-year ceasefire.

Yesterday the signs were unexpectedly good. The four UDA leaders due to meet Ms Mowlam sat in one of their recreation rooms in the wing which they describe as home, and, far from being warlike, sounded relaxed, open-minded and keen to talk.

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19 9

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'Home'-is a gaily-painted wing festooned with UDA and loyalist signs, flags and mottos. Men in casual clothes strolled along a central corridor, while others lounged in a kitchen and recreation room. From the background came the pounding of disco music. The cells are the jail.

homely: prisoners can buy and bring in televisions and hi-fis. and many have wallpapered their cells. "This is where these blokes live," Martin Mogg, the governor, commented.

There is clearly a balance of power in operation here, for no prison officers were on the wing, staying on the other side of a set of bars. But there were two security cameras trained along the corridor, and when the governor ushered reporters into the wing his pres-

ence was affably accepted. The authorities offered to bring in the media because they, the loyalists and IRA prisoners all feel aggrieved at newspaper stories suggesting that prisoners serving sentences for terrorist-type offences live a lie of Riley in the

It is indeed a most peculiar prison, but the governor, the UDA and the IRA all wanted to set the record straight. Asked if prisoners control the wings Mr Mogg answered: "Yes." They run their wings, he explained, while staff had control of everywhere else. Regular searches would be held, he said, and head counts were car-

ried out twice a day. He and the prisoners took exception to reports that drink and drugs are freely available. that sex takes place on visits, that prisoners have mobile phones, and that they can have cases of wine brought into

BY DAVID McKITTRICK

"Sex on the visits?" said

Michael Stone: "I wish. What

is it - a kiss and a cuddle with

your wife or fiancee, that sall."

some 12 sets of gates away.

IRA officer commanding.

Paudraig Wilson, said the

same: "Most of what has been

said is untrue and sheer fan-

and drugs were not smuggled

in, the Maze had much less of

Over in an IRA H-block.

Sam McCrory, the UDA commander, said: "There's no booze, there's no drugs, there's no sex on the visits and we don't have guns. Drugs are totally out of the question. Anvbody caught with drugs in any of the UDA wings will be expelled from the organisation

and put out of these blocks. "Ît's embarrassing and humiliating for our families when they read about sex on the visits, they're taking drugs, they're running about drunk. The majority of people in here are health and fitness fanatics so they're not going to take drugs. Half of them are on fat-free diets or they're vegans.'

tasy. We are political prisoners and yes, this is a different prison from probably any other prison in the English sys-Martin Mogg said that while he could not guarantee that contraband such as drink

STRICT SECURITY

Strict security arrangements have been put in place for today's unprecedented visit to a prison where, just two weeks ago, an inmate was shot dead.

While an investigation into the shooting of "King Rat" Billy Wright is continuing, officials are taking no chances with the safety of Mo Mowlam.

"The governor of the Maze, Martin Mogg, has said he can guarantee the safety of the Secretary of State," said a spokesman for the Northern Ireland office. "In addition she will be accompanied by her own team of protection officers from the RUC ... she will not be visiting any sensitive areas within the prison." Talks are expected to begin at around 10.30am in a private office and are expected to last for around an hour. - Andrew Buncombe

a problem in these areas than many other prisons.

McCrory, heavily tattooed. explained life in the jail: "This prison works on a day to day system of enoperation with the management of the prison. We can ask for something and a PO (prison officer) will tell you no. So we ask to see a governor, and we'll sit down and we'll negotiate and we'll come to some sort of arrangement. You mightn't get what you want but you might get a piece

"But you'll not do it without cooperation, you don't bully these people into it. We've been reading that staff feel under threat from us. Well, we've have had three tootball matches with the prison staff. And afterwards we went into the gym and we had crisps and coke and sandwiches and we all had a good laugh with each other."

The approach is different in the IRA H-block, which is more soberly decorated. On the walls are silhouettes of Che Guevara and some armed men, a notice about international women's year, a pro-Palestinian poster and Irish language material.

Wilson said that people complained about prisoners having access to computers. but said the two in the wing were needed for educational purposes: 50 republicans were doing Open University degrees, five working for master's

Photograph: Brian Harris

degree and two studying for

"We live in the real world - there have to be headcounts, there have to be searches," he added. Another IRA leader, Harry Maguire, added: "What we have here is a degree of progressivism, pragmatism and realism." A third, Jim McVeigh, said: "Unpalatable as it may seem, we are prisoners of war. We act as an army, as a disciplined group of men, in a very disciplined and determined manner,"

Wilson was very open on the question of IRA escapes: "Unfortunately, from our point of view, since the big escape of 1983 we have only managed to get out one other prisoner. Liam Averill. We very much regret that we have not been able to secure the successful escape of larger numbers of republican prisoners.

We see it as our duty." Back in the UDA block, Mc-Crory was clearly looking forward to meeting Ms Mowlam. "We've our own thoughts, she'll have her own thoughts, we'll get round a table." he said. "It's not a negotiation thing, it's a talk, a conversation and a listening exercise. From Sunday to now we have not stopped - meeting after meeting after meeting. We know the way forward is dialogue. We want a level playing

Immoral Maze, page 4 Leading article, page 16 Suzanne Moore, page 17

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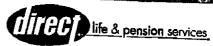
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TODAY'S NEWS

Selsey tornado

Residents of the seaside town of Selsey were coming to terms with the destruction left by a freak tornado, which cut a swathe two miles long and quarter of a mile wide. Chimney stacks were sent crashing, roofs were damaged, tiles sent flying, shop fronts damaged and trees uprooted, but no one was hurt. Page 3

Tenerife cult swoop

Police in the Canary Islands last night stormed the "last supper" of a cult and arrested a German psychologist who they said was planning the collective suicide of 32 followers. Members of the religious sect apparently planned to end their lives in expectation that a spaceship would carry them of from a Tenerife volcano summit. Page 10

Britannia friction

Government plans to save the Royal Yacht Britannia for the nation are descending into legal acrimony. Two London consortiums and a Glaswegian team, angry at not being chosen to provide a home for the yacht, are planning a judicial review of the Government's decision to shortlist Manchester with Leith. Page 3

: 12 (SAO) Eye, Pages 27,28 Page 26, Eye. Page 25 Eye, Page 26

Web address: http://www.



Curing the millennium bug could become an inside job for hackers

Here's the problem: Britain doesn't have enough skilled computer staff to solve the "millennium bug" computer problem: there are millions of lines of code which need to be examined by people, not machines, to check

Here's another problem: prisons are getting fuller, budgets are getting tighter, and the Prison Service is being encouraged to look for new ways to generate revenue by getting its inmates to do work for private busi-

Can you see where this is heading? Of course you can. Though the computer company ICL was a little surprised the other day when a man from the Prison Service rang up and offered the services of its, ahem, captive

But then again, with the average computer contractor charging around £3,000 per week to work on millennium bug problems, while the average prisoner gets £7 per week for work for outside contractors (such as laundry and brush-making), you can see a certain attraction in the arrangement for private companies. And the Prison Service could see the logic too: it's got 60,000 inmates

in 136 jails. There must some people there with computer skills - even if in some cases, it was computer skills that led to them getting locked up in the first place, for example for planting viruses, defrauding companies or browsing the Internet for child porn.

However, a Prison Service spokesman said that reports which appeared yesterday in the trade magazine Computing that it might be seeking to lock up a contract with ICL were "pure speculation". "On an annual basis the prison service explores employment opportunities with hundreds of companies in a range of fields," he said.

But, he admitted, "we have begun preliminary discussions with ICL about the possibility of providing some labour to undertake data trans-

How would you choose the people to do the work, though? Surely the very ones who would have the right qualifications to do the work are, by definition, the ones you don't really trust to do it.

A spokesman for ICL agreed: "There's a raft of issues that need to be addressed - security, vetting, payment, getting the agreement of customers. And we wouldn't want to be accused of exploiting cheap labour."

Dealing with industry has caused some teething troubles for US prisons, which also hire their inmates' services to private companies. It has thrown up some odd pairings - including prisoners being used by longdistance phone companies to make marketing calls, and others to validate credit cards for debt agencies.

The sort of thing ICL is worried about is that its captive workforce might - accidentally or on purpose - miss some important mistake in work that was being corrected to solve the millennium bug, expected to hit computers at the end of 1999. It might take that long before they decide whether

World news

Obituaries

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Crossword

TV & Radio

Weather

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK

Business

Taking control

Leader, letters

- Charles Arthur, Science Editor

15

18-20

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26, The Eye, 9

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The Eye, 10

Ms Drew, an engineering manager at GEC Marconi Avionies in Rochester, is working on a project to upgrade the helmets for pilots of RAF Jaguar aircraft. The headgear is part of a highly sophisticated weapons guidance system.

sessions was a Scalextric set.

Woman Engineer of the Year.

PEOPLE

The presentation of the 1997 award, sponsored by the Institution of Electronics and Electrical Incorporated Engineers, comes just days after news that girls are beating boys at science and maths in school. In the past, however, girls have experienced considerable difficulty when switching from school and university to the workplace. Only 300 of the insti-

Claire Drew was very much a daddy's girl. When her — tution's 27,000 members are women. Ms Drew, the mother of a three-year-old girl, has experienced no father - a deck officer in the merchant navy - resuch problems. "I've received nothing but support turned from sea she would spend her time with him throughout my career. I know a lot of women en-"fiddling with cars". One of her most prized poscounter difficulties, but I've been very lucky." Yesterday at 30 years old, she was named as Young

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

After a higher national diploma at Liverpool Polytechnic, she got a job with British Aerospace. Six years later she moved to GEC Marconi in Kent, "Although girls have always been encouraged in maths and science, they don't see the range of options within engineering and don't really look at the discipline as serious career move," she said vesterday.

The award, which included a £1,000 cheque and a silver rose bowl, was presented by Labour MP and tellow engineer Claire Curtis-Thomas. Runner-up was Vicki Houston, 28, from Glasgow, who works for Yarrow Shipbuilders. Most promising young engineer was Abigail Small, 23, from Preston, Lancashire. - Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

Mrs Hamilton

Christine Hamilton, the wife of

disgraced former MP Neil Hamil-

ton, said vesterday that she had

had enough of politics - but added

that it was possible that she could

ing on the recent Channel 4 com-

edy Mr White Goes To Westminster.

based loosely on the Hamiltons'

electoral battle with Martin Bell.

in which a disgraced MP's wife

runs for Parliament. She said:

"There's a whole world outside

polities and it would be quite fun

But asked if she might stand for

"I'm the kind of person who's

Mrs Hamilton was comment-

stand for Parliament herself.

could be MP

Circus family's double trouble

Yesterday was a bad day for the Chipperfield circus family. As one son lay critically ill in a Florida hospital after being mauled by a tiger. his brother waited to hear whether he would be in trouble with the law for shooting the beast.

Graham Chipperfield, 28, came to his brother's rescue when Arnie, a 350lb Bengal tiger, bit Richard. 24, on the back of the head. He Richard Chipperfield: Critical could be now charged with breaking state laws against animal cruelty and discharging a firearm in will have to decide whether a warrant will be issued for the arrest of Graham Chipperfield.

Members of the Chipperfield able and elegant animals. I have I'm not saving it's a probability." family have been performing in cir- fallen in love with them." Yestercuses since 1684 and have a long - day he was in a critical but stable - going to survive life. You have to tradition of working with lions, condition in hospital. tigers and leopards. As the British



Top gun: Claire Drew test-piloting the upgraded headgear that forms an integral part of the

Daddy's girl shows her mettle in man's world

public lost its taste for live animal shows, however, Richard and Graa public building. A police spokes- ham moved to work in America woman said: "The state attorney where performing animals are still having time to enjoy it." deemed acceptable. In an interview last week. Parliament, Mrs Hamilton, 48,

Richard said: "Tigers are depend-said: "Everything's a possibility cope with whatever life chucks at

— Rosa Prince you.".

UPDATE

INDUSTRY

Fat cats still get the lion's share

The gap between the "haves" and "have nots" in British industry is continuing to widen as directors award themselves pay rises four times the increases they grant to their employees, according to a study published today.

The ratio of the pay of the highest-paid director and the average emplayee was 12 to 1 in 1994, but three years later it had increased to 16 to: 1. The TUC, which asked City research group Datastream International to compile the figures from company accounts, said the statistics show that little had been done to curb "executive greed" despite the strictures of the Greenbury Committee, which investigated boardroom remuneration more than two years ago.

Comparing the same 362 companies in 1994 and 1997, the TUC's report, "Wider Still and Wider", showed that the average pay of the highestpaid director, excluding shares and incentives, had increased from £204,160 in 1994 to £312,910 in 1997, an increase of 53 per cent or around 16 per cent a year. At the same time the average pay of employees rose 13 per cent, or 4 per cent a year, from £17.240 to £19,410.

— Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

CHILDREN

Record number of calls to charity

A record number of children called ChildLine last year, it was disclosed yesterday. More than 1.2 million youngsters sought advice from the free national helpline service for children in trouble or danger - a 12 per cent

The most common problems were physical and sexual abuse - mainly at the hands of their own families - in particular their fathers - bullying, and worries that other children were being mistreated. The number of youngsters given help and protection after contacting the service for the first time also increased last year - by 14 per cent to 102,816, compared with the previous year, according to the charity's annual review published yesterday.

Of the new callers, more than 18,000 - 18 per cent - telephoned in 1996-97 about being physically or sexually abused, 14.311 (14 per cent) said they were being bullied and 10,500 (10 per cent) called because they were worried about someone clse, usually another child.

Other calls were about problems ranging from unwanted and under-age pregnancies to unhappiness because parents were divorcing. On-going councelling was given to thousands of others who continued to need help.

However, the charity warned that many children were still not getting the help they need because they could not get through to the service.

TRANSPORT

Urban traffic getting slower

Car journeys are taking longer because of increasing congestion, according to Government figures released yesterday. The survey of speeds in 24 English towns and cities, carried out by the Department of Transport in 1996 and 1997, showed that in 14 regions cars were travelling slower. The biggest fall in average speeds was seen in Peterborough, where cars

in off-peak hours had been travelling at 38.8 mph in 1993 and now only Not all cities suffered. In six areas, there has been a significant increase

in average speed. In Derby, speeds rose by nearly 5 mph. In Tyneside, the absence of roadworks when surveying took place in January 1997 led to a rise in average speeds of more than 3mph during the rush hour.

- Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

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Canada (\$)	2.26	Netherlands (guilders)	3.24
Cyprus (pounds)	0.84	Norway (kroner)	11.91
Denmark (kroner)	11.03	Portugal (escudos)	292.9 1
France (francs)	9. 64	Spain (pesetas)	243.63
Germany (marks)	2.89	Sweden (kroner)	12.79
Greece (drachmei)	459.18	Switzerland (francs)	2.34
Hong Kong (\$)	12.17	Turkey (lira)	331,162
ireland (punts)	1.15	USA (\$)	1.58
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ZITS

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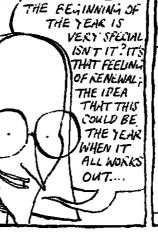
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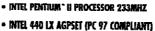
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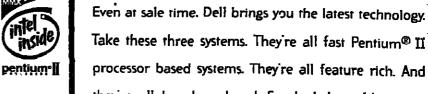
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3/NEWS

The night the Selsey twister wrecked a town

The small West Sussex town of Selsey woke up yesterday morning to the multi-million-pound damage of a freak 100mph tornado. lan Burrell reports on how the shellshocked townsfolk then became targets for looters and cowboy builders.

lion's share

alls to charity

g slower

72 - 2 - 3 - -W-#12-

It came just before midnight. To some, the whistling winds that suddenly drowned out the noise of a thunderous hailstorm were like the sound of an ourushing express train. Others heard it and envisaged a giant tidal wave sweeping up through the town from the shore.

Then came an explosive thunder clap. Across Selsey windows were sucked from their frames, cars lifted into the air and chimney stacks hurled to the ground.

Jeremy Wearn, a photocopier engineer, was asleep as the glass burst out of his window, causing a rushing change of pressure which ripped out an outside wall, sending breeze blocks crashing to the ground.

Without the outside wall, Mr Wearn's three-sided bedroom. with its exposed wardrobes and candelabra, yesterday looked like a display in a furniture showroom open to the gaze of neighbours and the media.

Shortly before he was moved to emergency hotel accommodation, he said: "When the crashing had stopped I looked out and could see next door. The bedroom wall had gone."

The town's most famous resident, Patrick Moore, the astronomer, rushed home 500 made for a badly damaged carvards from his local Indian avan site and tried to force their restaurant to assess the storm damage to his three observatories. One was demolished.

"It looks like Dresden after a raid," he told The Independent "It's going to be a major repair job." No one was killed and only described as a "fairly major tor-

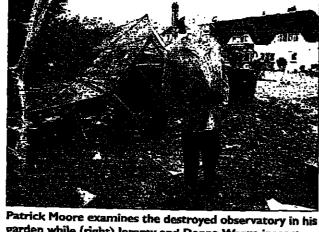


garden while (right) Jeremy and Donna Wearn inspect damage to their house Photographs: Andrew Hasson

damaged homes, a new surge swept through the town in the form of opportunists who tried to cash in on their plight. First, shortly before 7am, came the looters. A gang of youths descended on a petrol station which had lost its window and tempted to raid the garage

Locals, most of whom stayed awake all night in a state of shock, spotted what was happening and called the police.

Other would-be looters way into some of the mobile homes. Chief Inspector Stuart Harrison, of Sussex Police, said: "It's adding insult to injury to members of the public who have already suffered greatly at the hands of Mother Nature. It two were injured in what the seems rather evil that they London Weather Centre later should be preying on people when they are in their direst nado". But yesterday, as local need." He said a team of 35 uni- curred: "It felt as if Armagedpeople tried to patch up 1,000 formed officers had been de- don had come," he said.



ployed on the streets of Selsey to prevent more incidents. Then came the cowboys. Roofers, glaziers and builders began arriving in the village soon after daybreak. Although many local firms were present. others had come from London and as far away as Norfolk.

Albert Jones, owner of local firm Nutbourne Construction, said: "There's a lot awful lot of chancers down here. One bloke had filled his car with tarpaulin and was trying to sell it." Some locals were being

asked for up to £60 per roof tile for repairs. By lunch time, the police had drawn up a leaflet with a caricature of a cowboy which was circulated to all the damaged homes. It warned: 'Watch out, there's a cowboy about. If in doubt call your loroof to the tornado and at- cal police station." Chief Inspector Harrison said: "We have uniformed officers out investigating the bona fides of some of these people." Selsey

is used to fighting the elements. A milder tornado struck there in 1986 and earlier this week there were flooding alerts as waves breached the sea de-

Arthur Gilling. a retired bank worker who was shoring up his bungalow vesterday after branches from a pine tree came crashing through the roof and bedroom window, said: "It was like nothing on earth." Eric Payne, who had to be evacuated from his home, con-



How the elements struck twice

baseball buts and chains smashed their way into a house in Selsey, West Sussex, then fled without taking anything - but not before explaining to the frightened residents that they had broken into the wrong house. That is the sort of exciting place Selsey is.

It is difficult to see what Selsey could have done to arouse the heavens' wrath, not once but to shave a priest's tonsure. twice. The town has just been hit by its second tornado in recent number of elderly residents years. It suffered a milder one (more than 40 per cent of the

and heavy seas damaged the town's sea defences.

If this is a sign of vengeance from above, it may have something to do with St Wilfred of York, who built a cathedral in Selsey in 681. Wilfred spent much of his life involved in complex disputes involving the date of Easter and the correct way

The town can boast a large

the largest caravan parks in Europe, a branch of the Dr Who Appreciation Society and the astronomer Patrick Moore.

When the eccentric Eighties pop group Madness wrote the lyrics to their hit song "Driving in my car", they included the line: "I've even been to Selsey Bill". They chose it well: where else, after all, both rhymes with, and is even duller than. Muswell Hill?

Until the end of the 18th century, Selsev Bill - the promon-

In 1994, three men armed with in 1986. Then last Sunday, gales population are over 60), one of tory on which the town sits - was an island. The causeway to the mainland was completed in 1809.

> Between that date and Wednesday night's tornado, Selsey has generally stayed out of the headlines. In 1994, there was a double murder after a karaoke meeting in the local pub - the Star Gazer, named for Moore - and the following year someone found a £15,000 Rolex watch in a swimming pool and handed it in to the police.

— William Hartston

IN YOUR FIVE SECTION INDEPENDENT

Beyond the horizon in Jamaica: 48 hours in St Petersburg

TIMEOFF



Finding a way through the money maze

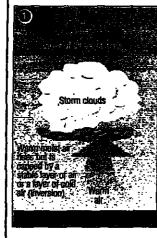
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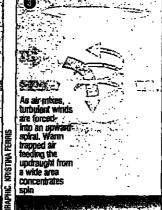
THEEYE

What the well dressed matador is wearing

THEMAGAZINE



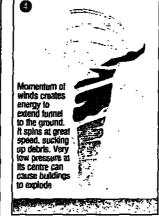




ers worsen, as the winds speed

the funnel up. It tightens and

extends down towards the



HOW TORNADOES CAN HAPPEN – EVEN IN GENTEEL SUSSEX

again. About 50 hit Britain each year, but most don't hit populated areas, and are smaller than yesterday's storm.

Tornadoes have their origins in thunderstorms. In the United States, meteorologists have twisting warm air punches a learnt to watch for rain patterns hole up through the cold air, the dicative of a funnel cloud about to form, or already ro- clouds dissipate, but the oth-

If you thought tornadoes were tating. This usually happens just an American experience, along a storm front when large as in the film Twister, think masses of cold dry air, fastmoving frigid dry air, and lowlying warm wet air collide.

The masses begin rotating, with the warm air trapped beneath, trying to rise, and the cold air trying to fall. If the scene is set for a funnel cloud. Generally, half of funnel

ground. When it touches, the tornado is born. Some have wind speeds of more than 250mph, and move across the ground at more

than 50 mph. Their severity is measured against the 7-point Fujita scale, ranging from F0 to F6, the "inconceivable tornado" with winds of more than 370mph, which isn't expected

to happen on Earth. Even F2s and F3s are killer tomados. Andy Yeatman, spokesman for the Meteorological Office, said: "[The Selsey] tornado was considerably more destructive than those we normally witness."

The funnel core is the most vicious killer for anyone unlucky enough to be sucked into it: people are sandblasted to death by tiny debris.

- Charles Arthur Science Editor

Acrimony over plans for royal yacht

Government plans to save the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' for the nation are descending into legal acrimony. Steve Boggan reports ол moves which may sully the good name of the vessel in her "retirement".

The Government is to face legai challenges over its decision to shortlist Manchester as one of two sites where the Royal Yacht Britannia will finally come to rest.

Two London consortia and a Glaswegian team, angry that they were not chosen to provide a home for the retired yacht, are planning a judicial review of the Government's decision to shortlist Manchester with Leith.

Their main gripe is that they believe the Manchester plans were submitted after the closing date for bids, a claim the

Manchester team and the Ministry of Defence, which is han- off the Manchester Ship Canal dling the issue, vehemently near Peel Holdings' £200m Manchester's bid, put for-

ward by Peel Holdings plc, owners of the Manchester Ship Canal, was not in before the first deadline last spring. After that, opment Corporation building. the MoD whittled down applicants from 20 to six - again, not including Manchester. However, MoD officials said Peel Holdings expressed an interest during the summer and made a formal, detailed bid before the second deadline of September 30 last year.

But Lords of the Isles, representing a consortium which planned to moor the ship in South Quay on the Isle of Dogs, say they were told the Manchester bid was late, was imposed on civil servants by ministers and is, in any case, inappropriate for the future of the

The Manchester bid involves

placing the vessel at anchorage the whole game was changed." "There is something odd about the imposition of a bid after the deadline in an area Trafford Park shopping development. The Lords of the Isles

(Manchester) which we believe could not sustain the royal bid would have placed Britanyacht and bring in the £2.5m a nia in South Quay, adjacent to year needed to maintain her." the London Docklands Develsaid Ian MacNeil, spokesman for Lords of the Isles. "We un-However, on December 10. derstand the bid was late and we George Robertson, Secretary of have been told by officials at the State for Defence, named Man-MoD that they were ordered to chester and Leith as the final consider it. We want to know competing sites. Lords of the Isles said it believed the deci-

Peel Holdings in Manchester is 55 per cent owned by John jection was backed by Swift Whittaker, thought to be among International, another London the richest 120 people in the consortium, which planned to country. An MoD spokesman moor the vessel at Greenwich. said the Peel bid was submitted Separately, the Glaswegian inside the deadline, a statement biddder, Clyde Heritage Trust. which would appear to be supis consulting lawyers. Mike Stanger, its spokesman said: ported by correspondence given to The Independent by "We believe the MoD has another bidder.

breached European rules and its A final decision on the resting place for Britannia will be cedure. We feel that the goalmade in the spring. posts weren't simply moved -



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sion was "political" and its ob-

own rules during the tender pro-

4/ULSTER PEACE



SAM McCRORY, 32, camp commander of the **Ulster Defence Association** inside the Maze. Tatooed from head to foot, he is currently serving 16 years for conspiracy to murder. Just days ago he warned that the Loyalist ceasefire had reached breaking

point



MICHAEL STONE, 42, is notorious for his 1988 attack on republican mourners at Milltown cemetery during the funeral of three IRA terrorists shot by the SAS in Gibraltar. Three people were killed. A member of the UDA, Stone has killed six Catholics in all.



GLEN 'TITCH' **CUNNINGHAM, 30,** was sentenced to 25 years in 1995 for an attempted murder in 1993. Was identified and arrested a year later by a broken tooth found in a getaway car. He recently lost 28 days' remission for throwing a can of cola at a warder.



BOBBY PHILPOTT, 43. leader of the Ulster Freedom Fighters, is serving 17 years for two attempted murders. He said: "We have met Mo Mowlam before. We hope she meets all sides including the Provos. The situation is on a knife edge but I support my party to be at the talks."



PADRAIG WILSON, 38, is the commanding officer of the IRA inside the Maze. He is serving 24 years for the attempted murder of a soldier and for conspiracy. He was arrested in possession of a booby-trap bomb He said yesterday: "We want this ... to work. We are in this to try and remove the need for armed



HARRY MAGUIRE, 37, is serving life for the murder of Corporal Derek Wood, 24, and Corporal David Howes, 23, two signals officers who were brutally beaten and then shot after accidentally driving into an IRA funeral procession. He organised the movement of the battered officers by taxi to waste ground w they were finished off.



IIM McVEIGH, 33, comes from the Falls Road in Belfast. He is serving 24 years for conspiracy to murder service personnel. He has served 13 years.



SEAN MATHERS, at 21 one of the youngest Repub-lican prisoners in the Maze is serving a life sentence for conspiracy to cause explosions. He comes from

The immoral Maze: where the prisoners rule the roost

When Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, steps into the Maze prison today, she will be entering rigorously disciplined regime policed not by the prison authorities, but by the commanding officers of 'prisoners of war'. Steve Boggan describes the most unusual prison in

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They were the questions on oner of war camp - with its everybody's lips the day Billy Loyalist Volunteer Force was gunned down inside the Maze. How could prisoners in the UK's toughest jail get access to guns? And once they had, how to use them?

chains of command - than it is Wright, the "King Rat" of the to a jail housing common crim-It was in 1981 that the true

- men of murderous principle - and ordinary convicts bedid they evade capture in order came recognised in the political process. Then, 10 IRA But the nature of the Maze volunteers died after a hunger itself provides the answers. A strike aimed at securing special complex of eight H-blocks status for political prisoners. Afhousing 500 of the most dan- ter the death of Bobby Sands, gerous terrorists in the world, the first striker to die, the dis-

As a result, the blocks represent segregation as well as incurceration. A-wing, for example, houses 15 Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) distinction between its inmates republican prisoners, while neighbouring C-wing is home to 15 Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) terrorists.

It was from C-wing two weeks ago that three INLA killers launched their attack. across the roof of H-block 6, on the minibus carrying Wright, still inside the prison but not sate from their reach.

commanding officers giving orders and authorising breakouts, the procurement of weapons, equipment, mobile women is difficult to prevent.

the paramilitary groups was al- have carried the guns in. lowed to hold a party. During the IRA's celebrations, the convicted murderer Liam Averill escaped, dressed as a woman. Escape attempts are a regular

Because of the nature of occurrence. The most spectaceach block, with prisoners act- ular came in 1983 when, after ing as a disciplined unit and with assembling an armoury of five guns, 35 IRA prisoners ran through the gates. Most were recaptured shortly afterwards. The inquiry into that breakout phones, information and even concluded that a member of staff - either bribed, black-Before Christmas, each of mailed or intimidated - may

> Such is the proximity of the blocks and the mutual hatred of their inmates, that Mo Mowlam's meeting today with Michael Stone, the man who ran amok in Milltown Cemetery with a gun and hand grenades, is expected to be followed within days with a meeting only yards away at which Harry Maguire will be present.

Maguire was in Milltown Cemetery when Stone killed three during the funerals nine years ago of the IRA active ser-



Flashback to the Milltown Cemetery attack by Stone

the funeral of one of those murdered during the funeral, Maguire was one of the mob which beat and then killed Cpl Derek Wood, 24, and Cpl David Howes, 23, the Royal Signals ofvice unit gunned down by the ficers who were dragged from well be on different planets.

SAS in Gibraltar, Days later, at their car after becoming caught up in the funeral procession.

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And it will not be lost on her that, though imprisoned only yards apart, joined inextricably by a week-long chain of events, Maguire and Stone might as

Explosives seized in Dublin

of home-made explosives seized in Duhlin may have been intended for bomb attacks in Britain or Northern Ireland, Irish police suggested yesterday.

Four people were arrested and gardai believe one of them Army Council. is connected with a recentlyformed dissident republican Mowlam, the Northern Ireland charge him "deeply unhelpful at eignty Committee, headed by Bernadette Sands McKevitt. sister of the dead hunger striker Bobby Sands, in opposition

to the peace talks. The swoop followed intelligence reports and a surveillance operation by Garda special

Army defused a 500lb car bomb in Banbridge, Co Down. In the past, home-made fer-

tiliser bombs have been the province of the breakaway republican group, the Continuity

Secretary, prepared to meet prisoners at the Maze prison today and as police swooped in connection with a series of terrorist incidents.

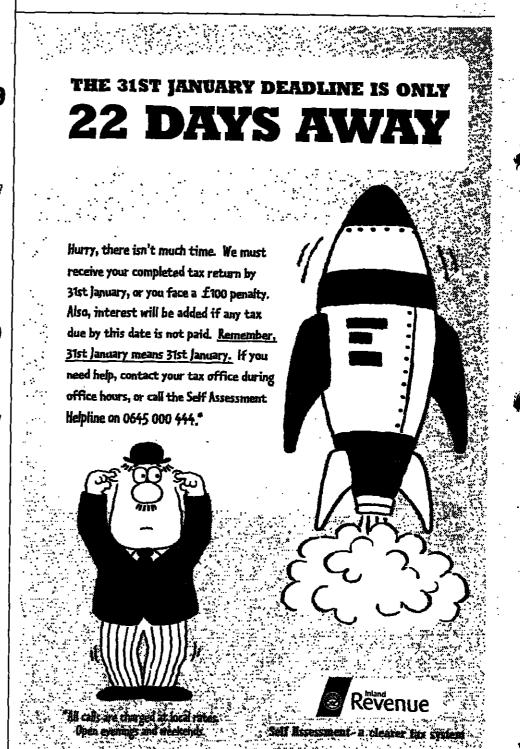
In Dublin, Brendan McFarlane appeared at the Special Criminal Court charged with the pub on New Year's Eve. 1983 kidnapping of Don Tidey, branch and anti-terrorist units the then-head of Quinnsworth,

A haul of one and a half tonnes and came the day after the Ireland's largest supermarket group. McFarlane, 47, from Belfast, a former leader of hunger-striking IRA prisoners. was accused of falsely imprisonment and unlawful possession of arms with intent to endanger life. Sinn Fein vice-president Pat The seizure came as Mo Doherty called the decision to

> this very difficult time In Belfast, a number of people were arrested in the loyalist Shankill Road area. It was thought they were being questioned about the murder of Catholic Edmund Treanor in a

- Alan Murdoch and Louise Jury





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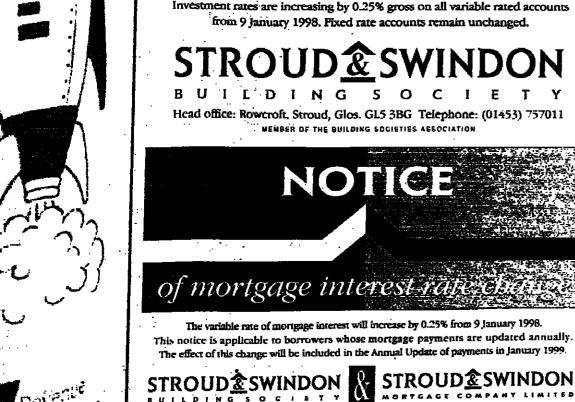


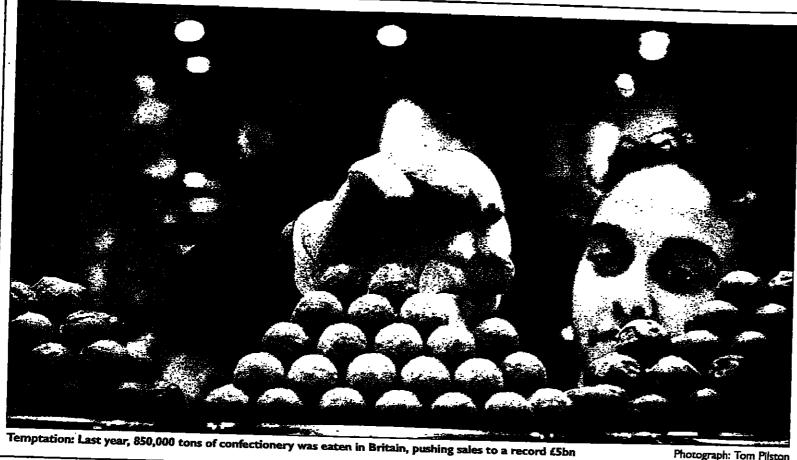
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in Dublin







Sweet-toothed Britons lead world in chocolate eating

The British leave the rest of the bined with a proliferation of the country - Londoners eat to buying sweets and chocolate. decade according to the 1997 Confectionery Market Review.

We each eat an average per year of 16kg (more than 35lb), making us the largest per capita confectionery market in the world, way ahead of the United States at 10kg, France

with 9kg and Japan with 3kg. The review, which is produced each year by Cadbury and Trebor Bassett, shows that the market in confectionery has grown by 16 per cent in the last 10 years. In 1987 we munched our way through 735,000 tons of sweets and chocolates but by last year that had risen to a massive 850,000 tons, which pushed sales over the £5bn mark for the first time. The growth is attributed to people tending to snack more, com-

tor with its sales outstripping £2.09 - closely followed by the combined total of ice those in the South and Southcream, biscuits, snacks and

chocolate and sweets, the picture changes when you look at who actually buys the confectionery. Although children actionery. Although children ac-count for one-third of all Polos and Trebor Extra Strong confectionery eaten, they buy only 6 per cent. The biggest purchasers are women - two-thirds of all confectionery is bought by them. However, because women still do the bulk of the family shopping they eat only beaters, and our love affair with two-thirds of what they buy, compared with men who eat nearly all they buy themselves. Chocoholies vary around

world standing when it comes new brands over the last the least confectionery, spending £1.44 per head per week. Confectionery continues to Those in Wales and the West dominate the snack-food sec- Country spend the most east who spend £2.04.

The traditional bar - Cad-While people all ages eat bury's Dairy Milk - continues to be the best seller, followed by Mars and Twix. The best selling sweet brand is Wrigley's Ex-

> Alan Palmer, marketing director of Cadbury, said: "This report shows how great the British confectionery industry is - we really are true worldchocolate and sweets shows no sign of abating."

— Glenda Cooper Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Slimmers' yoghurt claims to make stomach feel full

Chocolates, biscuits and sweets which claim to fill you up - thus helping you lose weight - could be just around the corner. Nutritionists however are more

sceptical. Glenda Cooper. Consumer Affairs Correspondent, reports.

Scientists yesterday introduced a yoghurt with an ingredient which they say could help you lose weight by fooling the body into thinking that the stomach

A substance called Olibra, made from palm oil and oat oil, is said to trigger the chemical reaction in the small intestine which tells the brain that you have had enough to eat. The first yoghurts containing Olibra went on sale in Sweden yesterday and the developer of the product. Scotia Pharmaceuticals, said it hoped to follow suit in Britain.

But nutritionists said yesterday that more work was needed before it would be possible to say whether the yoghurt fulfilled expectations, and they asked Scotia Pharmaceuticals for more information on the

Olibra is made by taking palm oil and extracting ingredients which appear to activate sensors in the intestine which then release peptides into the blood. These in turn send messages to the brain that food is

Mixing palm oil with oat oil and water produces an emulsion

which carries the Olibra swiftly into the small intestine.

Scotia says that the feeling of fullness lasts for three to six hours, reducing the tempta- sant along the lines of controtion to snack between meals and lessening the desire for food. It claims that consumption of rally in the diet, and activates calories at the next meal is significantly reduced.

A trial carried out by the University of Ulster involving 29 men and women found that after eating the yoghurt calorie intake was reduced by 16 per cent.



Fat intake was reduced by 22.5 per cent.

The participants in the double blind trial ate breakfast and then lunch when they were given either a normal or an Olibra

At 5pm a buffet meal was served where participants could eat as much as they liked. The amount of food eaten by each

INTERESTRATE

weighing all foods and weighing the leftovers.

The yoghurt's makers insist this is not an appetite suppresversial drugs because it uses ingredients which occur natunatural reactions.

However, Tom Sanders, professor of human nutrition at King's College, London, and author of You Don't Have To Diet. said yesterday that more testing was needed: "The company is trying to wheedle its way into selling a product ... without testing for safety.

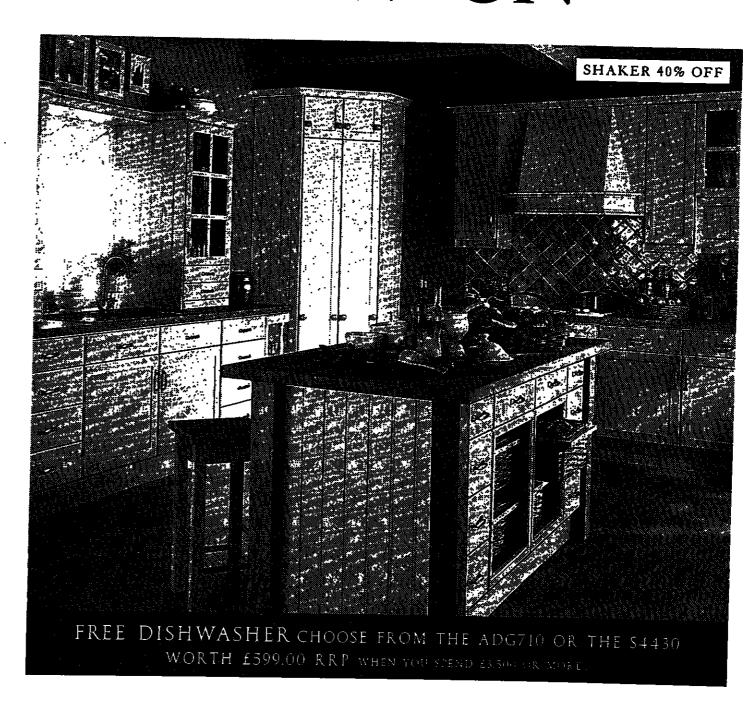
"The study is very shortterm and it is not going to say whether it's going to work in the long-term. It also takes quite a long time to get signals to the brain and most people wolf whereas the brain signals may take one or two hours."

He added that even if the substance made you feel full, that was not necessarily the answer to controlling appetite. The reasons why we gain weight and overeat are really quite complex. The idea that obesity is due to not controlling hunger signals is not the whole story. Most people eat because of the social situation."

Robert Dow, chief executive of Scotia, said yesterday that studies to see the long-term effects and any side effects would be carried out.

But Professor Sanders said the idea that the product was "natural" and, therefore, safe was not acceptable: "You need to have everything tested after BSE where things were naturvolunteer was recorded by pre- al but extremely nasty."

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IND15

Balloonists see their dream deflated before take-off

The latest attempt to circle the globe in a balloon, by three men including a British engineer, ended before it began yesterday. Kathy Marks in the Swiss Alps, explains what happened and asks why this elusive quest excites such passions.

The conditions were perfect for a launch at first light yesterday morning in Chateau d'Oex. in the Swiss Alps. The 177ft-high silver balloon should have lifted off into the skies and floated across the Mediterranean towards Africa, on the first leg of its 20,000-mile voyage.

The Breitling Orbiter 2 balloon would have been carrying three men who have pinned their hopes on flying around the world non-stop, propelled only by the winds.

But disaster struck as it was being unloaded by crane at the launch site. The four cables that secure the gondola to the canopy inexplicably slipped

crashing back on the lorry that our philosophy to give up." had transported it. Repairs lay take-off for at least a week.

successive attempts by rival fashion. Just this week, Amerfaulty equipment, gave up af- zine has called it. ter 7,000 miles and landed his Solo Spirit balloon in Russia. Last November, Richard Branmoorings before take-off in Marrakesh, Morocco.

For the two Breitling pilots, Swiss-born Bertrand Piccard and Wim Verstraeten, a Belgian, it was their second false to ditch in the sea just hours only by the forces of Nature." into their journey because of a kerosene leak. Andy Elson, a break records has for centuries British flight engineer who was to have accompanied them this time, was asked what would have happened if the cables had failed in flight. "We would not be having this conversation

Piccard said: "It's like having

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their fastenings, sending it to wake up. But it is not part of can, was the first to walk round

To many people, there is and weather patterns will de- something faintly absurd about The gods have not smiled on this particular feat. But to flying enthusiasts, it represents the teams to be the first to cir- ultimate challenge, the "last cumnavigate the Earth in this great aeronautical adventure within the world's atmosphere", ican Steve Fossett, thwarted by as National Geographic maga-

The thirst to enter the history books was expressed eloquently by Piccard. "In this century," he son's envelope snapped its said, "almost everything on the planet has been explored and discovered; all the oceans, all the mountains, all the continents ... This is maybe the last great adventure, to fly around the world with no engine and start. Last year they were forced no way of steering, pushed

The human urge to set and been associated with circumnavigation of the Earth. On the seas, it was first accomplished by the crew of the Victoria, led by the Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan, in 1522. In the air, the World Cruisers in 1924. George a nightmare and not being able Matthew Schilling, an Amerilieve, is about to clinch it.

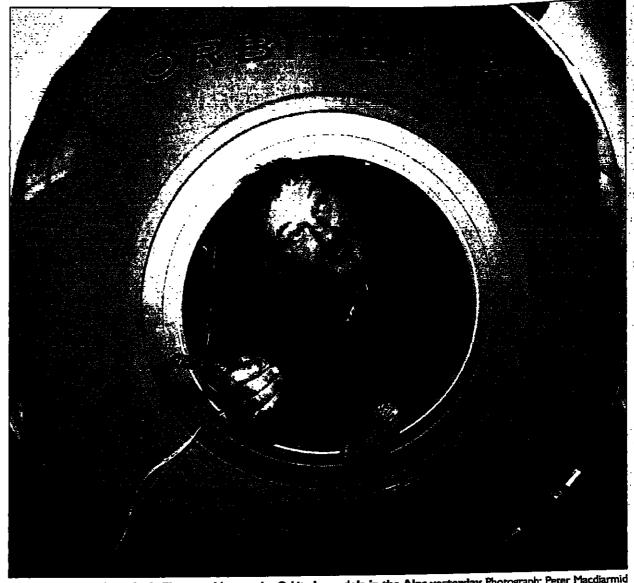
the world, from 1897 to 1904.

In the rarefied world of hotair ballooning, there has been fierce competition ever since the first manned balloon was launched in France in 1783, its burner fuelled by damp straw. old rags and rotting meat. The first person to ascend into the stratosphere was Piccard's grandfather, Auguste, in 1931.

Piccard, 39, is a psychiatrist: he planned to hypnotise his fellow team members so that they could snatch some sleep during the journey. Elson, 44, of Wells, in Somerset, spent his childhood on sailboats and says that he turned to ballooning "so I could go sailing into the sky and escape". Fossett, a millionaire securities trader, flies in an unpressurised

Additionally galling to the Breitling team will be the fact that today sees the start of a rival round-the-world bid, by an American due lifting off in New Mexico, And Branson is repairing his balloon for another accolade went to two Douglas attempt from Marrakesh this month. One of them, they all be-

cabin and thermal underwear.



Foiled: British engineerAndy Elson working on the Orbiter's gondola in the Alps yesterday Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Labour expels two left-wing MEPs

Hugh Kerr, two left-wing MEPs, from the Labour Party had been an automatic formality following their decision to apply to join the Green Party group in the European Parliament.

In a letter of notification sent yesterday, Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, told them that "such membership is fundamentally inconsistent with the terms and conditions of your membership of this party".

A party spokesman said they had been asked to do the honourable thing and resign. "They clearly have no intention of doing so. We have therefore acted promptly in line with party rules."

In a statement, the two said that they had been denied the right to speak at a European Parntary Labour Party meet-Labour voters who are distressed Blair government in respect of lone parents and their children, the rights of the disabled, and the

very future of the welfare state." The vehemence of those views would have made it most improbable that the two men

The sacking of Ken Coates and would have been selected to stand on a Labour ticket for next year's elections, and the way in which they have confronted the leadership suggests a strategy to carve out an alternative platform. Worthern Lights"

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Whether there are millions of distressed Labour voters champing at the bit to vote for the two men as symbols of "progressive" resistance would be well-tested under the proportional representation system being introduced for the elections.

Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, yesterday sought to capitalise on the expulsions with an accusation of "Stalinism" against Tony Blair. Free speech is only permitted in the Labour Party if you agree

with the leader," he said. But little was being said by the ries after a one-hour meeting ing. "But they cannot stop us between William Hague and speaking to the millions of Edward McMillan-Scott, leader of the British Tory MEPs, over and angry at the Tory policies their concern that candidates which are being pursued by the would be required to toe the leadership's hostile line towards the European single currency. "We are trying to find a way of running a positive campaign on Europe," Mr McMillan-Scott said before the meeting.

--- Anthony Bevins

Dewar will stand as First Minister in Scotland

Without saying so, because it would have been uncharacteristically presumptuous, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, yesterday put himself forward as a candidate for the post of First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament.

Ending months of speculation in which the name of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, occasionally popped up as a contender, Mr Dewar said in a statement that with the Scotland Bill due to receive its second reading in the Commons on Monday, it was the right time to make his intentions clear.

"There is of course much preparatory work to be done to ensure that the Parliament gets off to a flying start," he said, "and I am fully committed to that task. The relationship with the Government of the United Kingdom will be crucial. The new parliament must earn the confidence of the Scots. If I can help in any way to achieve these aims as a member of the new parliament, I would very much want to do so."

Tony Blair, who actively encouraged Mr Dewar to make the move, said he would be greatly missed at Westminster. But he added: "I'm actually delighted that Donald has decided to stand for the Scottish parliament. He is an outstanding figure in British and Scottish politics and has an enormous contribution to make." Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, also welcomed the news, though he warned: "The issue of who will be First Minister is for the people of Scotland to determine in elections to the Parliament in May 1999."

The Liberal Democrats' Menzies Campbell said: "He will be a commanding presence in the Scottish Parliament and has the advantage of being highly regarded right across the political spectrum." - Anthony Bevins, Political Editor

Court told of death threats

A financial consultant sent a se- rell, 43, of Bridlington, East ries of death threats to six colleagues when he was suspended told yesterday.

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The letters from Richard Burrell had a picture of a bullet with the words "Death where is thy sting?" and the letters Crown Court was told. Mr Bur-

Yorkshire, who denies making threats to kill, is also alleged to as he was due to jet off for a con have sent his manager at Legal ference in Mexico, a court was & General a letter which read: "It's surprising how easy it is to = get hold of a handgun ... It's quite worrying to think who could be blown away when someone with a grudge decides "RIP" below, a jury at Leeds there is nothing left to live for."

The trial continues.



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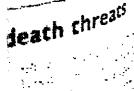
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Hubble reveals spectacle of Jupiter's 'Northern Lights'

The "Northern Lights" seen on Earth have their equivalents on all the other planets. Jupiter, the biggest, doesn't skimp when it comes to a show, as the latest pictures from the Hubble Space Telescope reveal. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains.

The "aurora borealis", the free light show put on by nature at our north and south poles, may be impressive on Earth. But it hardly compares to that available on Jupiter.

These new images, captured by Hubble, show that the largest planet in our solar system can match the best of Earth's northern lights. They extend hun-Jovian atmosphere, and thousands of miles down over the planet's poles.

The same phenomenon has been observed on Earth, and photographed by the Space Shuttle. Usually they are called the Northern Lights (or South-

little lamb?

ber has been mated, but there's

resulting offspring could answer

many questions about cloning. and perhaps even forestall the

In particular, scientists at the

Roslin Institute near Edinburgh

are keen to know whether the

offspring of a cloned animal are

sterile, or if they have any oth-

er birth or growth abnormalities.

be heavier and have more birth

problems, and frequently fail to

survive. Whether those prob-

lems are common to their chil-

key to the commercial devel-

coment of closing for farm an-

imals. If clones' offspring prove

not to be viable, they would have

to be recreated with each gen-

who would clone humans, such

as Richard Seed, the Chicago

physicist who shocked Ameri-

ca this week by saying he wants

to set up a chain of 20 human

cloning clinics. The idea has

depending on what happens in

Edinburgh. "Dolly has been

mated and we will wait for na-

ture to take its course," said Dr

Harry Griffin, the institute's

Imperial

By Don Paterson

mouth with my own;

and stood at our heads like a stone

win ground, or be handed the edge, we gave ourselves up, one to the another

and no trade was ever so fair or so tender, so where was the flaw in the plan,

Women (Faber, £6.99. © Don Paterson).

the night we lay down on the flag of surrender

like prisoners over a bridge

and woke on the flag of Japan

It could also be impractical,

been attacked as unethical.

It is also important for those

Answering those questions is

dren is as yet unknown.

eration.

idea of cloning humans.

Will Dolly have a

The cloned sheep which may be assistant director. "We don't its species' most famous mem- know if she is pregnant yet."

no news yet on whether Dolly September that Dolly would be However, if she is, then the to determine whether she is fer-

It is already known that in the affected by her own unusual womb, cloned animals tend to conception. Her offspring

ern Lights, depending which hemisphere you're in).

Yet the ones pictured are produced by a very different process from that on the Earth.

Here the flickering auroras are caused by fast-moving electrons, thrown out in the "solar wind" from the Sun, hitting the trum. That also means that it presently have to witness such Earth's upper atmosphere. On Jupiter, the lights are caused by particles thrown out by volcanoes on Io, one of the planet's moons. The particles are then magnetically trapped and begin rotating with the planet, producing ovals of auroral light centred on its magnetic poles (where the magnetic flux is most intense) during both day and night.

The electrons thrown out from lo generate an invisible electric current equivalent to one million amperes, and generate localised aurorae where dreds of miles upwards into the they enter the planet's magnetic field. Faint traces, looking like white, comet-shaped streaks outside the polar ovals, show where those streams are trapped in Jupiter's magnetosphere. They persist for hours after the moon has passed on its orbit, which takes almost two

Staff at the institute said last

tile and can produce healthy

a Finn Dorset breed. She was the

first mammal cloned from the

cell of another adult mammal.

director of the institute, said that

the breeding will determine

whether Dolly's lambs would be

would not be clones and would

be genetically different from

sheep, which would be valuable

tics, the Scottish biotechnology

knowledge for PPL Therapeu-

company formed to market the

centre's work, Professor Bulfield

proven that cloned animals can

reproduce. Megan and Morag,

sheep conceived through a dif-

ferent cloning process, have

was planning a centre where it

could put Dolly, Megan, Mor-

ag and Polly, a cloned lamb car-

rying a buman gene, on public

display. He said it should be

— Charles Arthur

Dr Griffin said the institute

lambs of their own.

open by Easter.

DAILY POEM

is it normal to get this wet? Baby, I'm frightened - I covered her

Our Daily Poems until Monday 19 January (when the winner will be announced) come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the 1997 TS Eliot Prize, presented by the Poetry Book Society. All the authors will take part in a reading on Sunday 18

January at 7.30pm in the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (box office: 0171-359 4404). This poem comes from God's Gift to

she lay in my arms till the storm-window brightened

After months of jaw jaw, determined that neither

The institute has already

Healthy lambs would mean that the cloning process had produced a fully healthy, fertile

their mother, he said.

Dolly, now 18 months old, is

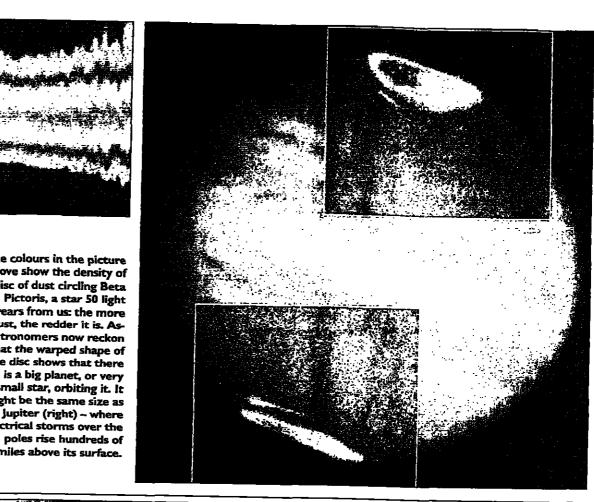
Professor Graeme Bulfield.

While the light show on Jupiter may be impressive. it does have one disadvantage. It is invisible to human eyes, because the light created by the electrical energy storms is in the ultraviolet part of the speccannot be observed from the

mosphere absorbs most of the light at these wavelengths. (The ultraviolet lenses used means that sunlight reflected from the planet's surface appears brown.) The Hubble telescope is the only convenient way we natural phenomena.

The colours in the picture above show the density of a disc of dust circling Beta Pictoris, a star 50 light years from us: the more dust, the redder it is. Astronomers now reckon that the warped shape of the disc shows that there is a big planet, or very small star, orbiting it. It might be the same size as Jupiter (right) ~ where electrical storms over the

miles above its surface.



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Rescue hope for threatened corner of Dickensian London Army makes

Residents and fans of a rare surviving corner of Dickensian London took heart yesterday at the Grade II listing of two pubs and a collection of commercial buildings and terraced houses.

It is by no means the end of the campaign to save the Borough Market area - a popular location for film-makers threatened with demolition to make way for a viaduct, but official recognition of the quality of the buildings could prove a powerful weapon.

The viaduct is regarded by Railtrack as essential to its £580m Thameslink 2000 proiect to improve public transport in the South-east. Conservationists have argued for a tunnel. The scheme would take the roof off Borough Market itself, the country's oldest fruit and vegetable market and so far un-

Railtrack said yesterday that alternative routes, including a tunnel, had been considered and "none of them was viable". The company will now have to seek special consent to demolish any of the listed buildings. Almost certainly there will be a public inquiry.

Tony Banks, the heritage minister, said the listing would ensure the Thameslink 2000

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sign by Robert Smirke, terrace

On location: Richard E Grant walking through the Borough Market area in a scene from the film Keep the Aspidistra Flying

sensitively as possible. "The two public houses, the Globe." bars and a central counter. Also Borough Market area is a fas- dating from 1872, and based on covered is a block of commercinating pocket of London's an unusual, almost heart- cial premises in Borough High Victorian history, renowned shaped plan; and the Wheat- Street built in the 1830s to a defor its Dickensian atmos-

sheaf, with its 1890s interior largely intact, a thin screen sep1890 after it collapsed.

However, campaigner Mike Challanger, a painter who has lived in one of the threatened houses in Park Street, and the Park Street houses for 21 years.

a half-kilometre viaduct without destroying the area. "It doesn't matter if you have a nice bit of brick-facing on the pillars. It's still a giant bridge." Stephen Goodwin,

married life less of a battle

Facing a recruitment shortfall of thousands, the Army is taking steps to improve life for its married soldiers. Andrew Buncombe reports on the latest move to make the military a happier place.

The Army is not a marriage guidance agency: anything done to try and make married life easier for soldiers has always been done on an unofficial basis. But concern over the shortfall of around 5,500 personnel has led it to take formal steps to stop trained soldiers leaving. The latest step has been to lengthen tours of duty. where requested, for soldiers with wives, husbands or partners.

"The old joke from lots of army wives is that they never have time to unpack properly." said a Ministry of Defence spokesman. "As soon as they start to get everything straight and put all their nick-nacks in place, they have to move on again. They say they seem to spend all their time with pack-

ing cases in the hallway." Moving on every 18 months or so could add to the pressures of a potentially stressful job, said the spokesman. Not only did it affect relationships between soldiers and their partners, but it also seriously disrupted family life. "It is particularly hard if there are children to be considered," he said. "Some go to boarding schools but many parents prefer not to do this and have them living at home.

"It clearly cannot be helpful for children to keep having to move schools every couple of

"We also want our soldiers to

be stable. A happy soldier works better. We would not want to have someone defusing a bomb if they were worrying about what was going on at home."

In an effort to deal with this, the Army's director of military operations is lengthening tours of duty to up to three years from the current average of between 18 months and two years.

The impetus for this shift has clearly come from the top. In an interview last year with the Army's magazine, Soldier, the Chief of the General Staff General Sir Roger Wheeler said it was essential to balance military needs with other demands. Tru well aware of the fact that not only do we need to train to be competent, but we need to recognise a large proportion of Army is married." he said. "Those soldiers need time with their families, time to attend career courses and time to have some of the fun side of the Army."

The Army Families Federation, which represents the interests of 56,000 families, said last night that its own research had found longer postings were likely to lead to a more stable lifestyle. "In addition to areas such as children's education, longer postings make it easier for soldiers' wives to get jobs, which these days is very important," said a spokeswoman.

Between 1996 and 1997 the Army took on 15,522 new recruits, but 15,354 serving soldiers left. "We realise that we are now operating in a highly competitive market place for good recruits and we want to attract the best," said the MoD spokesman. "We also want to stop people leaving. We don't want good soldiers doing five or six years ... then going back to civvie street."

Now atheists seek place in the Dome

In deciding on the contents of Mr Porteous Wood adds: son must satisfy not only those of different religions, but those of no religion at all. Britain's atheists are demanding that if. as Mr Mandelson asserts, the Dome is to have Christianity as its "central theme", it should tell the whole story.

In a letter to the Minister Without Portfolio and the New Millennium Experience company, Keith Porteous Wood, of the National Secular Society, proposes that the section on Christianity should include a record of the centuries of cruelty, inhumanity and repression".

He writes: "I do hope the Millennium Experience will be a complete experience with, for instance, the Crusades Salon to include Muslim heads impaled on spears; the Inquisition Pavilion where you will be able to torture and disembowel heretics; and perhaps, especially for the kiddies, the Witch

Burning Experience - three old ladies an hour burned for your delectation. We must also have a section devoted to the suppression of scientific knowledge - how about Galileo in Earth revolved around the back on negative things."

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the "Spirit Zone" of the Mil- "Please remember that the lennium Dome, Peter Mandel- Dome is being paid for by the country as a whole, including those of many faiths other than Christianity and also those of no faith ... If the Dome is perceived as a primarily religious experience, it will be shunned by millions, as church attendances testify.

> Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, minister of Maidenhead Synagogue and spokesman for the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, is also anxious that the "dark side of Christianity" be included in the Dome alongside the positive aspects of the religion. "There should be a realistic appraisal which includes the enormous human suffering that has been caused internally to Christian heretics, externally to the Jews and in its battles against science as in Galileo and Darwin," he said.

However, a spokesman for the New Millennium Experience Company yesterday insisted that the Dome would be "very much a forward-thinking experience. "It's not going to dwell on the heritage of the past too much. That's not the idea. We want it to inspire and emchains for suggesting that the bolden people rather than look

RAF officer appeals against conviction for wife murder

A senior RAF officer convicted of murdering his wife has launched an appeal.

Lawyers representing Sqn Ldr Nicholas Tucker claim that his conviction at Norwich Crown Court last month was unsafe. They hope that the appeal will be heard by the Court of Appeal in London by the end of the year. Tucker, 46, who was based at RAF Honington, Suffolk, was

jailed for life after a jury found him guilty.

Jurors heard that Tucker's wife Carol, 52, was found lying face down in the river Lark at Lackford, Suffolk, in July 1995 after the couple's car left the road.

The prosecution said Tucker throttled his wife and held her under the water then staged the accident to cover his tracks. Tucker denied the allegation and said he veered off the road to avoid two deer.

During a 13-day trial the prosecution alleged that Tucker was infatuated with Dijana Dudukovic, 21, when he killed his

He met Miss Dudukovic, a Serbian interpreter, during a sixmonth tour of duty with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. During the trial, the court was told that the couple engaged in an ill-fated affair during which Tucker's attempts to make love to her proved unsuccessful. Miss Dudukovic has since married and now lives in Switzerland.



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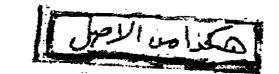
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Deep breath: A study of more than 27,000 schoolchildren from all parts of Britain shows that one in three reported some form of wheezing

Photograph: Bill Fleming

Pollution not to blame for childhood asthma

Teenagers are more likely to suffer from asthma in the clean air of rural Britain than they are in the polluted inner cities. Jeremy Lourance, Health Editor, examines a study which suggests the disease cannot be blamed on dimate, diet or air quality.

Britain has one of the highest levels of asthma in the world, and it is now the most common chronic childhood disease. But although childhood asthma has risen sharply over the past few decades, scienmystery will be deepened by the findings of a study of more than 27,000 schoolchildren from all parts of Britain which showed that one in three reported some form of wheezing. Levels were, unexin Scotland, suggesting that the most popular suspect, pollution, is not the cause.

The evenness of the geographical spread also suggests that climate and diet are unlikely to be factors. The study did find, however, that the disease is underdiagnosed and undertreated, with only 60 per cent of those reporting wheezing getting any treatment.

tists remain baffled about the cause. The pital Medical School, London, sent questo severe symptoms but are undiagnosed across Britain, from the Shetland Islands to Cornwall.

All pupils aged 12-14 were asked to fill them in and 85 per cent were returned. pectedly, slightly higher in rural areas and Although one in three pupils said he or she had experienced wheezing in the last 12 months, only half had been diagnosed with asthma. Among those who reported frequent wheezing at night, only one third had been diagnosed with asthma.

Many pupils were not getting the treatment they needed, the researchers say in the British Medical Journal. They estimate that six to seven pupils at each large The researchers, from St George's Hos-secondary school are suffering moderate led the research, said: "The most striking with diet, climate or other factors.

tionnaires to 93 large secondary schools and untreated. Even among those who had been diagnosed. 4 per cent said they were suffering disruption to their lives, suggesting inadequate treatment.

The researchers say the lack of geographical variation in the numbers of children affected suggests that whatever is causing the disease is everywhere. "Furthermore it suggests that factors which do vary geographically in Great Britain - such as climate, diet and outdoor environment - are not the main determinants of preva-

Dr Balvinder Kaur, clinical lecturer in public health medicine at St George's, who

thing was that the prevalence was high. The second most striking thing was that it was high everywhere. I would have expected higher levels in the cities where there is outdoor air pollution, but they were actually higher in non-metropolitan areas. We know pollution triggers asthma attacks in

seem to be a cause of the disease itself." The level of asthma in France is half that in Britain and it varies widely around the world. The variation is partly attributed to differences in awareness and definition of wheezing but even after these are allowed for, researchers believe real differences remain which could be linked

people who have the disease but it does not

Paracetamol could stave off cancer

Painkillers bought over the counter can prevent cancer. Scientists have shown that aspirio and similar anti-inflammatory drugs used in the treatment of arthritis reduce the risk of bowel cancer. The mechanism is unclear but it is thought that the drugs may stop the production of chemicals in the intestine that are necessary to allow the cancer to grow.

Now scientists at the Brigham and Women's hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, have tested the effect of over-the-counter analgesics on ovarian cancer. They speculated that whatever mechanism was at work with aspirin in bowel cancer might also apply to other cancers, but they included questions about the use of paracetamol and ibuprofen in their study.

To their surprise, they found a positive link with paracetamol but no significant association with either aspirin or ibuprofen use. Women who took paracetamol regularly were half as likely to develop ovarian cancer as those who did not.

The numbers in the study, published in the Lancer medical journal, were small and the researchers stress that their findings are preliminary. They say the study must be replicated and the protective mechanism explained before any public health advice can be given.

A total of 563 women with ovarian cancer were compared with 523 from the general population and the researchers found that 26 of the cases (4.6 per cent) used paracetamol compared with 46 of the controls (8.8 per cent). The women with the lowest risk took paracetamol daily or had used it for more than 10 years.

The researchers say that paracetamol cannot work against cancer in the same way as aspirin. However, there is evidence from studies on rats that paracetamol suppresses the activity of the ovaries, which might account for its cancer-preventing effect.

Paracetamol is metabolised in the liver in a process that may require the chemical glutathione. This is also required for the release of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) which is essential to achieve ovulation. The researchers suggest that if glutathione is taken up in metabolising paracetamol, it could result in depleted levels of FSH.

They say: "Until the validity of and mechanism for a possible association between paracetamol and ovarian cancer protection are better defined, this association cannot yet be regarded as one which would prompt a public health recommendation." — Jeremy Laurance

Blow for chemists and drug makers as price fixing is referred to court

Drugs manufacturers and chemists may be forced to scran price fixing for over-the-counter medicines after the Office of sands of community chemists Fair Trading (OFT) yesterday called on the courts to settle the issue. The move comes after a long-running campaign by supermarket chain Asda for cuts

OFT, John Bridgeman has asked the Restrictive Practices Court prescription-only medicines was abolished in the Seventies.

Asda estimates that shoppers in the United Kingdom could save £300m a year if supermarkets and other retailers were allowed to sell a wide range of popular medicines below the price set by the makers.

dustry, backed by leading chemists' chains, says that thoucould be forced to close if price fixing was scrapped.

In 1970, when the Restrictive Practices Court last looked at the issue, it allowed manufacin the price of non-prescription turers to continue enforcing minimum prices for their brand-The director-general of the ed products. Mr Bridgeman said there had been considerable change since then - in conto end resale price maintenance sumer behaviour, the nature of (RPM) on over-the-counter a chemist's business and the pharmaceuticals. Price fixing on structure of the retail market warranting a new review.

> Asda, which in 1995 cut the price of 80 vitamin products only to restore them after manufacturers secured injunctions, welcomed the OFT's decision. A spokesman for the chain said yesterday: "This is something we have been waiting for and we

But the pharmaceutical in- are delighted. Today marks the would enable them to withstand beginning of the end for price fixing in this country.

The only disappointment is that [the case] will not be heard until 1999, which means another £300m that consumers will have to pay because of price fixing. That is the excess profit going to manufacturers and multiple In 1970, the Restrictive Prac-

tices Court decided that without RPM supermarkets would stock a wider range of the more popular products and lower the prices, leading to fewer visits to chemists' shops at a time of decline. But the OFT said the number of chemists' shops was no longer declining and the main reason for consumers visiting them now was to collect prescriptions. The strong of chemist shops since 1970

price competition, it added.

Boots the Chemist said that it backed the smaller pharmacists in campaigning against abandoning price maintenance. Jan Wright, director of communications, said: "We feel the pricing system should remain. If it goes, small independent pharmacists will go to the wall and that is not in the public interest ... people will always want the option of

having a local chemist." The Community Pharmacy Action Group, which was set up to lobby in favour of RPM, reacted angrily yesterday. Its chairman, David Sharpe, said: "This is clearly an attempt to subvert an agreement between the govemment and pharmacies. Perple's access to medicines and healthcare advice should be degrowth in the number of chains termined by elected politicians,

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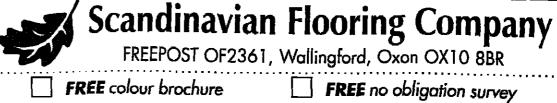
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Taking cocaine for science's sake

American scientists are giving drug addicts doses of cocalne and watching how their. brains react on a scanner. By identifying the parts of the brain that react to the drug, and subsequently trigger craving for more, they hope to understand the .. _ chemistry of addiction.

All that could be seen of the addict were his socks sticking of a walk in cupboard. He had been in there about an 40mg of cocaine into his a second of the man's brain. bloodstream.

Two psychiatrists watched, along with a heart specialist, a drug counsellor and a nurse. ing happened. Then the man's by the numbers began to rise

beats per minute ... 130 ... 135. His blood pressure lifted sharply. A number came up on a computer screen. "He's getting maximal rush," said Dr

The man inside the scanner signalled that he was enjoying himself. His head immobilised and his ears plugged, he rated the experience on a scale of one to four. Four meant really good. In this unusual experiment

at Massachusetts General Hospital, scientists were looking inside a man's head to see what cocaine does. A soupedout of a brain scanner the size up Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner, programmed to run faster than the kind used hour when a technician to take pictures of strokes or and similar experiments pushed a button and infused tumours, rattled off an image

Within minutes the rush fell to 2, then 1. Then came less pleasant feelings. Low 2, the man reported. Low 3. He felt clues to making medicines For a minute and a half, noth- jittery and out of sorts. Final-

heart rate began to rise to 90 on another scale, his hunger for more. Craving 3. Dr Breiter was relieved.

There had been no need to yank the man out of the machine and jolt him with defibrillator paddles - something they had practised doing in 30 seconds in case the cocaine triggered a heart attack. At about 10 pm, after

promising he wouldn't go looking for more cocaine that night, the addict was sent home with a lecture about the dangers of drugs, an offer of drug rehabilitation and his payment, a \$260 (£160) credit at a supermarket.

Drug Abuse, headed by Dr. Alan Leshner, is paying for this around America. Scientists hope that by observing exactly how cocaine gets people high and keeps them coming back for more, they will find that can blunt these effects. "That state of feeling good,

high, cuphoria, buzz, whatever you call it, that's what we're after, and that's what users are after," said Dr Scott Lucas, who is doing some of the research at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts General

doctors have counted 90 dif-

ferent parts of the brain that are turned on during cocaine's rush. But as the euphoria ebbs and the craving sets in, almost all of these fade out, leaving just a few distinct structure will working hard. "The picture emerging is that drugs take over structures that are involved in normal pleasure." The National Institute on said Dr Elliot Stein of the Medical College of Wisconsin.

> The findings suggest that drug addiction is not just a failure of will but a brain disease - a lasting, perhaps permanent change in the brain's chemistry and physiology that produces compulsive eraving. It also suggests possible approaches to making antidotes.

Jeremy Laurance

رچ.

All smiles as **Britain takes Euro-reins**

Tony Blair yesterday kicked off Britain's European presidency with a pledge to be a constructive 'honest broker' in launch preparations for the single currency. But as Rupert Comwell explains, awkward issues ranging from Turkey to the EU beef-ban could yet spoil the Prime Minister's Euro-show.

It was the traditional beaming start for an EU presidency, only more so - the descent en masse of the 20-man European Commission into the new incumbent's capital to map out the six

months ahead, but spiced this time by the undisguised delight of the Commission President, Jacques Santer, that he would be dealing not with Eurosceptic Tories, but with a new, keen Labour Government.

At a joint press conference, Mr Blair and Mr Santer, already on "Jacques" and "Tony" terms, gushed with quite sincere mutual enthusiasm. How "refreshing and appreciated" was Britain's new-found spirit of cooperation, Mr Santer said, and its desire to show how Europe could improve the lives of ordinary people.

The Prime Minister responded in similar vein. It was a privilege" to take on the presidency at a moment when the EU would embark on two crucial steps: enlargement to the East, and the final prepa-



rations for the single currency. Although Britain was not joining in the first wave. it would be an honest broker, playing a of improving the EU's fraught "good constructive role" in the

launch of the euro. But as Britain gets into the

daily business of the presidency, the smiles could soon fade. Both men stressed the urgency relations with Turkey, already threatening major trouble for

plicate efforts to find a solution adding that "if science was the to the Kurdish refugee crisis.

The EU's failure to lift its 21-month ban on British beef exports is a separate irritant. the accession of Cyprus to the Progress had been "far slower

Union, and which could com- than I'd like," Mr Blair said, test, we should get some action and improvement. But he warned, "it would be unwise to

he over-optimistic". During the presidency, Mr British seat.

Blair and the other Cabinet ministers who chair EU meetings are supposed to be neutral, leaving the national interest to be defended by more junior of-

ficials occupying the normal

New title: Tony Blair at a London press conference resterday on Britain's European presidency Photograph: Lynne Sladky/AP

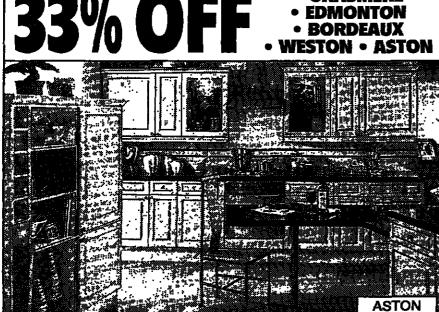
But this may not prevent friction between Labour's deregulatory, "welfare-to-work" philosophy and the interventionist, statist, instincts of continental Europe.

On the single currency, however, not a word was breathed yesterday about last month's row over Britain's exclusion from the "Euro-X" club of countries which sign up for the euro.

But even from the sidelines, the Tories still snipe. In remarks that can only have intensified Mr Santer's relief at the change of guard in Downing Street, William Hague last night stepped up his campaign of hostility to the single currency, urging Mr Biair to block unprepared EU members from joining the euro.

In a speech to Teignbridge Tories, he said: "Britain is at the helm for the next six months ... For a prime minister far more interested in doing what is popular rather than what is right it will mean hard choices."





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Police halt suicide cult's last supper

night arrested a German psychologist and cult leader charged with planning the collective suicide of 32 followers. including five children aged from six to 12.

Members of the religious sect apparently planned to end their lives yesterday in the expectation that a spaceship would carry them away from the summit of Mt Teide, a volcano in Tenerife.

Heide Fittkau-Garthe, 56, land for a decade and police had been investigating her followers, who were all Germans except one Spanish woman, for severnight and that they would be transported to a new world.

Police picked up clothing, iling university graduates, aged between 20 and 60.

A government spokesman said the sect centred around the homed in on her followers personality weaknesses and induced them to pay up to £300 to participate in meetings. Some members had apparently arrived in Tenerife in recent weeks

Police in the Canary Islands last after bidding farewell to their families "until the next world".

Police believe the sect is a splinter group of the Solar Temple suicide cult, whose followers have carried out mass suicides in Canada, France and Switzerland. Dr Fittkau-Garthe's disciples were staging a "last supper" at a private residence in the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife before police intervened.

"Inducement to suicide is a crime, and for that reason the security forces had to avoid this from Berlin, had lived on the is- evil thing," Antonio Lopez Ojeda, a Canaries government official, said yesterday. "It is not even clear which branch the sect is, whether it is the so-called Soal months. The sect believed lar Temple cult or whether it is that the world was to end last a splinter of this group ... many types are possible, based on the personality of the leader."

If convicted, Dr Fittkaulustrations and documents from Garthe faces four to eight years the followers, said to be middle- in prison. In 1994, 48 members class men and women, includ- of the Order of the Solar Temple died in murder-suicides in Switzerland. Five more members died the same year in Canada, followed by 16 others personality of their leader, who in the French Alps in 1995 and five more in Canada last March. Thirty-nine members of the Heaven's Gate cult committed suicide last March at a mansion outside San Diego.

– Ělizabeth Nash

Jospin to boost benefits in bid to end jobless unrest

The French Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is expected today to promise short-term and long-term improvements to benefits for the jobless in an attempt to halt a spreading campaign of protest by the long-term unemployed. Last night he met leaders of the protest, which has begun to threaten the credibility and unity of the Socialist-Green-Communist coalition which has governed France since June.

The protesters' central requests include a £300 end-of-year bonus, an improvement in unemployment pay of the 1,200,000 long-term unemployed and more emergency help for people in acute difficulties. Mr Jospin is expected to offer more public money to help the insolvent unemployment insurance agency meet the last demand. He may also offer longer-term reforms of the system to give more help to unemployed people to retrain for new jobs. — John Lichfield, Paris

Police discuss Kurd influx

European police chiefs began discussing a plan to deal with a wave of Kurdish immigrants landing in Italy, and rights groups, including Amnesty, urged Rome to grant all Kurds temporary asylum. The talks between police chiefs and security officials from Turkey and six EU states - Germany. France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria and Italy - were aimed at co-ordinating a Europe-wide response to the arrival of 2,000 Turkish and Iraqi Kurds in Italy in the past four weeks. Bonn has reacted with alarm to the influx of Kurds, believing they intended to join family and friends among the Kurdish community already in Germany. Italy has described them as refugees and said it would examine asylum requests on an individual basis. - Reuters, Rome

Journalist deaths drop

Twenty-six journalists were killed around the world last year in the course of their work, with India and Colombia the most dangerous countries. The annual report by Reporters without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists said it marked the third consecutive drop after an especially deadly 1994, in which 103 journalists were killed.

Seven journalists died in India last year, four in Colombia, three in Mexico, and two in Cambodia. For the first time since 1993, no journalist was killed in Algeria, despite worsening civil strife. --- Reuters, Paris







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TANNER

The People's Daily this week launched an offensive to win back readers who have deserted the stodgy diet of propaganda served up by the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party. Its circulation has haived during the economic reform. But Teresa Poole in Peking doubts that the changes will halt the decline.

There was a time, back in the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, 100 different newspapers in China and the People's Daily sold a healthy six million copies a day. The pressure of the marketplace was non-existent: print media carried no advertisements. paper which in September last state subsidies were available to bale out loss-makers, and few readers expected to find a newspaper actually interesting.

How times have changed. These days, the number of national and local newspapers and magazines has soared to 10,000, including 2,235 newspapers available nationally, pro-viding cut-throat competition.

It comes as no surprise that what sells is not President Jiang Zemin's latest speech in full, but celebrity interviews, gory crimes, fashion, stockmarket information, and tips for doing business. Just the sorts of subject not covered by the People's Daily.

Until this week, that is. With the newspaper's circulation now a relatively dismal three million - and almost all sales going to government offices - China's propaganda tsars have decided it is time to fight back. On Monday, a new four-page "Economics Weekly" section appeared. On Wednesday, a similarly sized "Society Weekly" made its debut. Jing Xianfa, di-1966-76 Cultural Revolution, rector of the newspaper's foreign when there were "only" about affairs office, told *The Independent of the Independe* dent yesterday: "In this new year, we want to give this newspaper a new face and give the readers a sense of freshness."

> year announced that the media was there "to give help, not to create trouble". It called for the proper reporting of "hot issues" and warned journalists not to make "a big fuss" about them. The political tramlines remain straight and narrow, but it represents a minor editorial revolution for the People's Daily to admit that it needs to attract a

Remember, this is the news-



readership, rather than consider one its political birthright.

So, on Monday, detailed tables reviewed the 1997 performance of the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock markets, and complicated graphs explained the theory of chartism and how it could be used to predict

There was even a flow diagram of what Thailand was doing to combat its economic crisis. The section's main news story was all about how the customs department had rumbled a corrupt Chinese firm which had shipped Japanese cars to

and licensed them with illegal brandnames and documents.

In the middle of the week, which leaders had attended China's best soirees, but a wor-Hong Kong, taken them apart. thy look at consumer and social an update on the good deeds of shipped the components into news. Indeed, one wonders a woman in Inner Mongolia

China, reassembled the vehicles, whether the People's Daily bosses have really understood how to win the circulation battle.

who, during the Fifties, was

crippled after sheltering the

commune's sheep with her body

during a snowstorm. Then there

was half a page on a certain An

Ziwen, a "great organiser" in the

Communist Party, and his ac-

tivities during the anti-Japanese

The main story provided an "Society Weekly" sadly turned exhaustive explanation of why out not to be a run-down of the price of electricity in the countryside is no longer higher than it is in the cities. There was appear to want something besides stodgy party propaganda Photograph: Tom Pilston

Paperchase: The Chinese

since the death of He Changgong, practitioner of the "three glories" of geology.

More interesting were the readers' letters. One correspondent explained how rural parents encouraged the otherwise undestrable early marriage of their sons in order to stop them gambling. Another complained about the lavish presentgiving by work units as Chinese New Year approached.

So the changes have limits. Readers might still find the People's Daily rather a slog. This is a newspaper, for instance, that on five of the first eight days of 1998 has carried front-page main photographs or big news stories about President Jiang Zemin. And yesterday, the main headline on page one read "Discussing Control of the Whole Situation", and was followed by dense editorial on how officials "must understand war during the early Forties. An- the big picture in order to adother big spread marked 10 years dress smaller problems".

Hello, good evening, and welcome to Bosnia's Hate TV

Supporters of the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic are starting a new television station to promote their leader. As well as extolling the virtues of the **UN-indicted war** criminal, the station will carry the war between the Bosnian Serbs to a

A strong contender for Europe's worst television station may soon be back on the air. with flattering portraits of the portly, silver-haired former Bosnian Serb supremo.

new dimension.

Hardline supporters of the indicted war criminal announced this week that they will launch a private television station, called S Channel, after the channel they used to run was taken off the air.

NEW BILL PLANS

BY MARCUS TANNER

The new station means a return to war on the airwaves between the two Bosnian Serb factions. One group, loyal to the Bosnian Serb president, Biljana Playsic, and based in the northwestern city of Banja Luka, affects a more pro-Western stance. The other remains true to Karadzic, bitterly opposes the 1995 Dayton peace deal for Bosnia, and lurks amid the pine trees and log cabins of the ski resort of Pale, near Sarajevo.

Before war broke out between Muslims. Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav republic in1992, Bosnia had only one, very dull, Communistrun television station. This was based in the capital, Sarajevo. Pointedly Yugoslav in coverage, its one concession to Bosnia was the wailing, vaguely Muslimsounding theme tune for the 7 o'clock news. But as fighting escalated, most of the Serb iournalists decamped from Sarajevo to Pale, taking their equipment with them.



Bosnian Serb television was born. But then the Bosnian Serbs themselves split into two camps over whether to accept the peace deal which had been brokered by the Americans in Dayton in November 1995. That brought more TV stations. Mrs Plavsic, who backed the Dayton deal, made sure the studio in her Banja Luka fiefdom declared UDI from Pale and struck out on its own.

Karadzic's cronies, in spite of the indictment of their leader bunal in The Hague, kept a grip on their transmitter in Pale. Their broadcasts were only silenced in October last year after the top international again bombarding Bosnians mediator in Bosnia accused them of inciting hatred against the Nato-led peace force.

> Long before the inter-Serb war of the airwaves started, Bosnian Serb TV had a reputation for poisonous coverage. leavened by occasional moments of bizarre hilarity.

> A classic incident was in the summer of 1993, when the presenter of the evening news announced that the Bosnian Serb parliament had voted to accept the latest Western peace plan. His dramatic, anguished tone made it clear he regarded this plan as a disaster for Serbs. But it was still a surprise when he pulled out a gun and shot himself in the head. He lay slumped on the desk for several seconds. until he jerked his head up. It was a joke. "No, the Serbs are not going to commit suicide!", he announced.

> Mostly, Bosnian Serb TV was no joke. Typical was the reporting in 1995 of the death of Maja Djokic, a Serb woman in Sarajevo killed in the street by an incoming Bosnian Serb shell. TV Pale picked up the story but in their "version" she was killed by the Bosnian Muslim soldiers who raped her.

> "It was a channel famous for its distortions and outright lies masquerading as news reports". says Emma Daly, a former Independent correspondent and co-author of an EU report on the local media during Bosnia's local elections last September.

Karacizic's TV in Pale was in a league of its own when it came to upside-down coverage of the Serb siege of Sarajevo and the Serb atrocities committed against the Muslims of Srebrenica and other towns in eastern Bosnia.

But there is competition. The Bosnian Croats, not wishing to be left out, naturally had to have their own TV, in the southern city of Mostar. This station has escaped closure by international officials, but only just. Its reports are seen as almost as biased as those of their Serb counterparts. In Bosnia, the proliferation of TV stations means everyone can tune in to the fanatics of their choice.



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VISA



Hours before they were due to be shipped back to the Austrian museum

they were borrowed from, two paintings exhibited until last Sunday by the Museum of Modern Art in New York were effectively impounded by city authorities.

The problem, David Usbome explains, is their Nazi past.

The Nazi-loot saga took an unexpected and emotionally charged twist yesterday following the news that authorities in New York are blocking the return to Austria of two paintings that had been on temporary loan to the Museum of Modern Art.

The move has delighted the two families who claim to be the rightful owners of the paintings by the Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele, Dead City and

Portrait of Wally. Schiele died in um's director, complained.

Both pictures were allegedly stolen by Nazi officers from family forebears before and during the Second World War.

Reif, an heir to Fritz Grunbaum, a comedian who died in Dachau in 1940 and owned Dead City. "Now we can resolve what

has been half a century of great loss."

But the confiscation is threatening to provoke a diplomatic feud between the US and Austria. It has, equally, caused dismay in the art world, stirring fears of long-term damage to the practice of inter-museum

The harshest reaction came from the Leopold Museum in year. Vienna, the current owner of the pictures. It had loaned the feud, the US embassy in Vienpaintings to the Museum of Modern Art for a special travelling exhibition that ended

"There is no comparable instance in history," Klaus Schroder, the Leopold Muse-

"This could rise up to a very big scandal, and I'm afraid of that. I cannot say what will happen in the next hours or days."

The Leopold had already "It's fabulous," said Rita pledged to create a panel of experts to consider the claims of the two families and had promised to surrender the works if the ownership claims were upheld.

But Robert Morgenthau, the Manhattan District Attorney, served the Museum of Modern Art with a subpoena, forbidding the shipping of the He is expected to insist they

remain in New York while the

case is considered by a special

grand jury. The process could

take months or even a full

Hoping to damp down the na yesterday said: "We believe the long-standing relationship of trust and co-operation be-

tween Austria and the United States will be helpful as the parties work to resolve this mat-



Framed: A detail from Schiele's Portrait of Wally, impounded in New York, where it was on loan from an Austrian museum

Life in solitary for 'evil' bomber

to life imprisonment without parole for masterminding the World Trade Center bombing and a plot to blow up a dozen airliners

саттуing American passengers.
The terms of the 240-year sentence will mean that Yousef will be held in solitary confinement for the rest of his life. Only mentalist beliefs. "You adored not Allah as a "twisted form of protest" at American proven members of his family will be able but the evil you had become. I must say as support of Israel. They said he had told acto visit him, Judge Kevin Duffy ruled.

Yousef, 29, has claimed to be of Pakistani origin and to have studied electronics. He killing human beings." was arrested in Islamabad in February 1995

Calling him an "apostle of evil", a New York and returned to the US. He was finally conhis own defiant statement to the court. "Yes, judge yesterday sentenced Ramzi Yousef victed last November for orchestrating the I am a terrorist and I'm proud of it. I sup-1993 Twin Towers blast. The attack, which killed six and injured a thousand, traumatised the US which had previously had little exposure to terrorism.

Judge Duffy dismissed Yousef's claim that he was following his Muslim fundafective. You wanted to kill for the thrill of would topple on another and kill at least

Before being sentenced, Yousef made

port terrorism as long as it is used against the United States and Israel. You are more than terrorists. You are butchers, liars and hypocrites."

At his trial, the prosecution said Yousef had conceived of the Trade Center attack an apostle of evil, you have been most ef- complices that he hoped that one tower 250,000 ÚS citizens.

Clinton sex case delay blamed on media

Clinton and the woman who has accused governor of Arkansas in 1991, has the right on 27 May in Little Rock, Arkansas. him of sexual harassment looked likely to to attend and made known her intention be delayed yesterday after the date set for the encounter was leaked to the press. Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, said it was probable the date would have to be

changed to avert a "media spectacle". The conservative Washington Times, Clinton would give his deposition - a pretrial sworn statement - at the White House David Usborne, New York Jones, who alleges that Mr Clinton made case of using the case in an attempt to em-

of doing so.

Mr Bennett said yesterday that the arrival of Ms Jones at the White House was bound to become a media event if the date in the case, he played down the possibiliwhich is anti-Clinton, had reported that Mr ty of an out of court settlement, accusing Ms Jones of wanting to profit financially. He also accused the right-wing Rutherford on 17 January. As the accuser, Paula Institute that is helping to fund Ms Jones's

A planned confrontation between President an unwanted sexual advance to her while barrass the President. The trial is set to start

In a related development, the US Treasury has disclosed that it is investigating a decision by the Internal Revenue Service to subject Ms Jones to a tax audit. This procedure, which terrifies most Americans, is were known in advance. Upping the ante invoked mainly when the authorities suspect irregularities, but there is widespread suspicion that it is also used by the powerful to intimidate political opponents. Yesterday, Mr Bennett dissociated himself and the White House from the tax audit.

Mary Dejevsky, Washington

THE INDEPENDENT

Everyday in any one of six Conran restaurants

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, 6 Conran Restaurants are exclusively offering readers of The Independent and Independent on Sunday a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person. In addition, readers can take advantage of further special offers throughout the evening at a number of the restaurants, details of which we shall publish over the course of the promotion.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting the Independent offer. On your arrival at the restaurant you must present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.

Terence Conran, widely recognised as the UK's leading restaurateur has played a significant role in changing the way we eat out. He has created II unique restaurants, and this year will open two more in London and one in

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Bluebird is an Epicurean experience for lovers of food and drink: a large restaurant and bar, together with a food market, thef shop, traiteur, cafe and luxurious dining club. Since opening last year, it has become a popular choice for those who want to enjoy good food and wine in a relaxed, friendly at mosphere. The menu combines the best classic and contemporary flavours and techniques, and readers can enjoy dishes from the grill, rotisserie and wood-fired oven. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.

Date Print Cafe The Design Museum, 28 Shed Thames, London, SE(175, 077, 278 701). Blue Print Cafe is a favourite destination for many in the city. Admired for its spectacular view, good food and relaxed atmosphere, the restaurant looks out over the Thames and Tower Bridge. Blue Print's food is simple and light reflecting influences from around the globe and the menu changes frequently to take advantage of seasonal produce. New for 1998, Blue Print Café have introduced a set lunch menu which independent readers can try at the special price of £10 for two courses. Also available early evening is a selection of great Spanish food and rustic wine for £10. Lunch 12noon - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.*

The centrepiece of the Butler's Wharf Gastrodrome, Le Pont de la Tour overlooks the River Thames and is situated by one of the most famous bridges in the world - it's namesake, Tower Bridge. The entire complex includes an elegant restaurant, lively bar & grill and series of splendid shops. At the Bar & Grill, the menu is a mix of regional French, brish, British and Italian dishes in simple, generous style. For Independent readers the chef has created a new set menu (£10 for two courses or £14.50 for the courses of £14.50 for two courses or £14.50 for two cou for three courses) full of classic Bar & Grill dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm -7pm.

11eano 100 Wardour Street London, WIV 3LE 0171 314 4000.

"When we opened Mezzo in September 1995, we wanted to make people feel good, to add to the quality of life in London and to bring something completely different to Soho," says Terence Conran. Described as the largest restaurant in Europe, Mezzo is in fact a collection of complementary, food related activities all gathered together under one enormous roof: Soho's only bakery, a patisserie, café and four bars, as well as two different restaurants - Mezzo and Mezzonine. Mezzo is reached by the interest which winds down through a dramatic double height space where the an impressive staircase which winds down through a dramatic double height space where the kitchens create a spectacular stage. The food is a fusion of east meets west, northern and southern hemispheres, where chef John Torode shows his passion for moting ingredients with flair and innova-

Lunch 12pm - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St. lames's. London, SWIY 6.4.... 077 780 557
Celebrating it's fifth birthday on February 14th this year, Quaglino's has been described as "......the talk and taste of London, a place so polished and swanky it could only have come from Terence Conran." Vogue Entertaining Guide June/July 1993. Despite opening in the depths of the recession, this glamorous restaurant has been one of London's most successful establishments. Inspired by the great brassieries of Paris, the menu is predominantly a mix of British, French and Italian dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Zinc Bar & Grill 11 Heddon Street, off Regent Street, London, WIR 7LF. Tel 0871 253 8539 Zinc Bar & Grill is a lively and informal restaurant and bar, in the heart of London's West End. Just seconds away from the hustle and bustle of Regent Street, Zinc Bar & Grill provides an oasis from the West End frenzy, a place to meet friends for a quick drink, a light lunch or a relaxed dinner. The menu is simple and reasonably priced with the majority of dishes cooked on the grill and rotisserie, on view to restaurant customers. Exclusively at Zinc, readers will be able to enjoy three courses for just £10 between 12 noon and 7pm.*

*Closed from ôpm on Sunday. Offer not available on February Htts.

Terms and conditions: To participate in the offer simply telephone the restaurant of your choice direct (from those listed above) to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an independent diner. On arrival at the restaurant you should present your correctly dated token to qualify for the promotion. The chooking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability. Diners will not be able to participate in the promotion if they have not made a prior reservation. The offer entities the independent diner and all members of their booking to a two course lunch or early evening supper (pre 7pm) at Mezzo, Bluebird, Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill, Quagino's, Blue Print Café or Zind Bar & Grill for £10 per person. Price includes one side order against a specially prepared menu. The discount at the Bluebird / Le Pont de la Tour shops applies to selected purchases in store. The menus may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. The cost of the meal includes VAT and excludes drinks, coffee/res. A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to such bill. The offer is exclusive to independent readers and this offer carnot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non-transferable. Conran Restaurants Ltd trading terms and conditions apply. Promoter: The Independent. One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London, E14 SAP.

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of the softening TOUS fire refusal of ide inquiry into

are expected to help gather evidence in Britain which can be

The move follows an appeal by the Pakistan government to the Home Office to help it with its investigations into claims that the Mrs Bhutto and her busband earned a fortune through corruption and drug-

Mrs Bhutto, sacked as prime minister in November 1996 on disputed charges of corruption and misrule, has denied charges by Pakistani officials that she siphoned out millions of pounds and accuses them of starting a "media trial" to defame her

Members of Pakistan's anticorruption unit are believed to have asked the British government to freeze three bank accounts in London allegedly used by Asif Zardari, the former prime minister's husband.

lating to Mrs Bhutto's husband.

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Algeria opening door to international massacre probe As the slaughter of civilians con-tinued. Middle East experts met in Brussels yesterday to discuss a possible "troika" mission of senior officials from Luxembourg, Britain and Austria the previous, present and future holders of the EU Presidency with the German foreign minister claiming that Algiers had already given a "positive reac-

tion" to the proposal.

In London, meanwhile, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said Europe must establish how it could help in finding which has taken at least 1,000 talist guerrillas began in 1992.

Until yesterday, there was scant sign that Algiers would give its blessing, essential for any international initiative to get off a way to end the bloodshed, the ground. Once again on Wednesday, the authorities islives in the first 10 days of the sued a "categorical rejection of holy month of Ramadan alone, any attempt to interfere in its and perhaps 70,000 or more internal affairs", saving an insince the civil war between the vestigation would only plant regime and Islamic fundamen- doubts over the source of terrorism, "a stance Algeria con-

But there are now hints it could countenance a less clear cut step. Apart from anything agreed with the EU, some form of UN mission remains possible while - according to officials in Ottawa yesterday - the military regime is willing to receive a Canadian envoy who would urge the Algerian government

more frequent that some of these took place with the pascomplicity, of the security forces.

only infuriate the Algerian government, which insists the carnage is exclusively the work of the fundamentalists, the most to be more open about the mas-ferocious group of which is the real success. So great is the hu-door.

demns and absolutely rejects". sacres. Allegations are ever GIA, the Armed Islamic man devastation that the Al-Group. The GIA is believed to be behind the unprecedented sive connivance, if not active weekend slaughter in the westem Relizane province, which took a reported 400 lives, and Such suggestions, however, for three subsequent attacks defenceless civilian populawhich left 62 dead.

The army is conducting a

White House sets scene for

The White House yesterday opened the way for a tentative soft-

ening of United States policy towards Iran in response to the Iranian President's television interview on Wednesday evening. The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said that the

text of the interview, in which President Khatami called for contacts through popular diplomacy, but ruled out government-togovernment contacts in the first instance, was being studied by foreign policy advisers. Stressing that any improvement in rela-

tions "depends upon not just what Iran says but what Iran does",

Mr McCurry also said: "We believe that President Khatami made

many very positive remarks about the United States ... But it's also

important to stress that the best way for issues to be addressed is

for governments to talk directly." There was a generally favourable

reception for Mr Khatami's performance in Iran. After almost

two decades of official vilification of the US, his positive assess-

ment of American civilisation was seen as a brave, and perhaps

Governor quits over killings

The pre-Christmas massacre of 45 Indian peasants in the Mexi-

can state of Chiapas has claimed another political victim. Chia-

pas governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro, of the ruling Institutional

Revolutionary Party (PRI), resigned on Wednesday following crit-

icism that he had been warned of a massacre but did nothing to

prevent it. Ernesto Zedillo, the Mexican President, last weekend

sacked his interior minister. Emilio Chayffet, who was responsi-

ble for peace negotiations in Chiapas. The south-eastern state is

a softer approach to Iran

gerian Government announced it is sending 50 tonnes of food. tents and blankets to survivors, "the victims of collective massacres by criminal groups of

In the end, perhaps, it may massive search operation in behumanitarian work that gives the region, but with no word of outsiders a foot in the Algerian

- Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Bhutto assets to be seized

The European Union last

night accelerated plans

for a fact-finding mission

to Algeria, Rupert Comwell

reports, amid signs that

Algiers may be softening

its previous flat refusal of

an outside inquiry into

the massacres.

Millions of pounds of assets and documents held in Britain said to belong to Benazir Bhutto, the deposed Pakistani prime minister, and her husband, are expected to be seized after the Government agreed to assist an anti-corruption investigation by Pakistan.

Officers from Scotland Yard held for use in any future trial.

dealing.

family.

Senator Saifur Rehman, Pakistan's senior corruption investigator, said yesterday that Britain had been asked for "mutual bilateral legal assistance". Mr Rehman claimed that as much as \$2bn may be held in various accounts.

confirmed it had agreed to cooperate with the Pakistan authorities, although it has only been asked about material re-- Jason Bennetto



Cash dance: Staff of Samsung Life Insurance acting out their refusal to listen to any more doom and gloom over South Korea's economic crisis. The company ordered them to do the dance in a central Seoul street yesterday to boost the morale of salesmen Photograph: Paul Barker/Reuters

split between sympathisers of the PRI, and supporters of Zapatista rebels seeking a better deal for impoverished Indian peasants. The Zapatista leader, Subcomandante Marcos, warned that armed con-

flict could erupt "at any moment".

risky, departure.

The Red Cross yesterday launched a \$170m (£106m) appeal to fund its activities in 56 countries around the world.

Red Cross launches appeal

In recent years, the International Federation of the Red Cross has focused on the plight of refugees. Now, the emphasis is more on disaster and disease. All too often, it says, "the consequences of catastrophe ... can be traced to uncontrolled urban development and environmental abuse". The incidence of disease and the breakdown of public health networks is an increasing concern.

Prime Minister set for a double act on visit to Japan

The Home Office yesterday as salesman for Britain, and

tative of Europe.

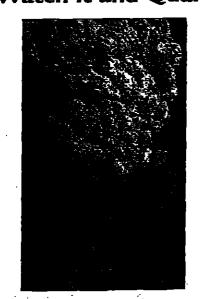
Tony Blair arrives in Tokyo to- emphasising. for example, of the European Union, while day for a five-day trip during Britain's low labour costs and Britain continues to hesitate which he will play a dual role, attractiveness as a site for inward investment. On the other (through Britain's presidency of band, he will also be advertisthe EU) as the high representing the EU as a crucial partner, not least in the run-up to mon-On one hand he will need to etary union. Mr Blair will be in blow Britain's trumpet at the ex- the paradoxical position of sellpense of its European partners, ing the joys of EMU on behalf

about signing on the dotted line. Mr Blair will also address the problems of former wartime prisoners of Japan, who are demanding compensation. But Britain has made it clear it will not put Japan under pressure on the issue. — Steve Crawshaw

INNOVATING COMPUTING ... PRINTING FAXING

WIN Savage Earth - Watch it and Quake!

THE INDEPENDENT



Savage Earth from Warner Vision Video is Granada TV's critically natural

The video comprises of four episodes, Heli's Crust, Restless Planet. Out of the inferno and Waves of Destruction cover and a half hours of astonishing footage in one video.

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Savage Earth skillfully combines the extraordinary power and images of strange and tranquil beauty with harrowing eye-witness accounts and moving personal testimonies the result being both educational

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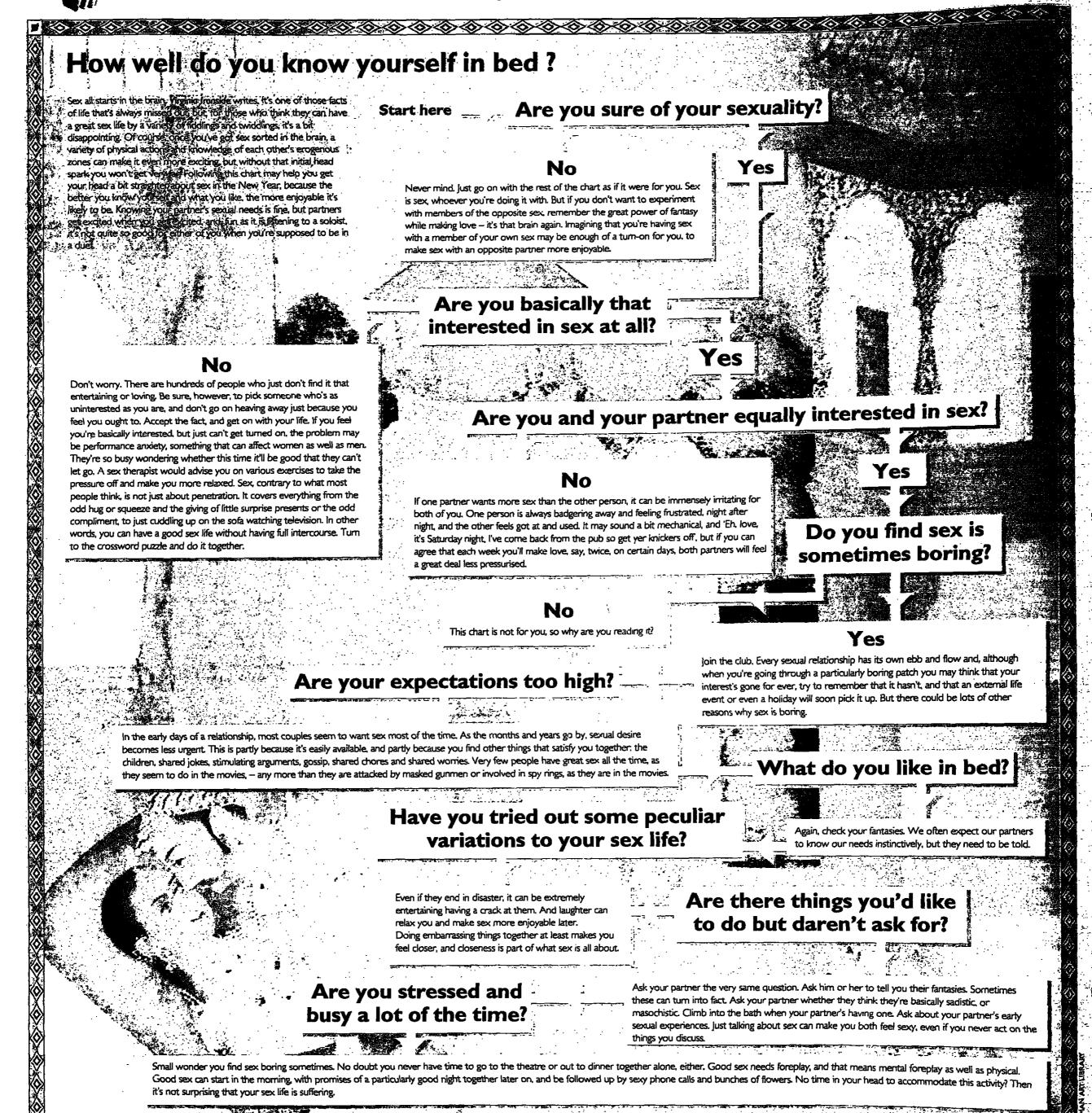
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Contracts offered support to again builts and Canon cease on ten most mal \$195



Sexual harmony is all in the mind

ILONTROL Sex is cold but rows are hot? The final part of our series looks at why relationships go wrong



'I found a pair of his well-worn pants draped over a casserole dish on the stove'

It was the pants episode that broke her. but didn't feel that she was making any big Three months of living with her boyfriend and none of us had heard a moan from Simone. She would come down the pub for a girls' night out and we'd quiz her on how it was going. Fantastic, she'd say. Lots of wild sex. Perfect. Until one night she told us she'd found a pair of well-worn pants draped over a casserole dish on the stove.

"I used to find his untidiness quite charming," she said. "But in those days I had the luxury of escaping from his place to the relative calm of mine - where the floor was still visible and the kitchen didn't resemble a war zone. But now his untidy bedroom is my untidy bedroom, and it's my bathroom that's decorated with wet towels and scummy bits of shaving foam."

Simone and Ian have been together for more than two years, and for the latter six months have spent nearly all their time together. There seemed little point in their not living together - it would avoid the endless tramping across town with knickers and toothbrush, and put a stop to misunderstandings over the phone. Simone talked about it with us before she moved,

commitment, or that things would change. be the last resting-place for his pants.

Marriage Guidance, believes that many mitment attached to living together. You've sharing with Ian that frustrates her.

Simone is far from alone in failing to people are simply not aware of what agreed to share something and bring a new be his space, and her casserole dish would relationship. Judy Cunnington, of London marriage vows, there is still a level of com-

realise that moving in together makes quite they're getting into when they move in with level of intimacy to your relationship - even She hadn't realised that her space would a change to the routine and rhythm of a each other. "Even when you haven't said if you're not aware of having done that."

THE GENDERGRAM: CHARTING YOUR CHILDHOOD INFLUENCES

plan to help warring couples, called the Gendergram, which can Often bring the most entrenched hostilities to a halt. The idea is that more do you want?" most relationship battles revolve around the same territory because because they have different rules each one of a couple will be making unspoken assumptions about what the other is supposed to do. without even realising it.

Take Charles and Sue. She says, "Do you love me?" To which he replies: "Of course I do." Sue: "How can I tell? You don't even

There is a new personal peace want sex." Charles, furious: "I go to work, I bring back the money, I help with the children, I don't sleep with anyone else. What

> Charles and Sue are in the ring about how men and women behave when they love someone. "There are no rules about gender any more, so everyone makes up their own," says the originator of the Gendergram, Dr Mark White. Then we assume that what we do is normal, and that anyone who

possible/ an insensitive slob." We don't tell each other our rules because usually we aren't aware of them. For the lucky few, harmony reigns because they share the same unconscious rules: and a minus for the negative. "we both help around the house", 2 Write a line or two under each. or "I do the money, you do the

kids." But all too often there is a What did they tell you about men mismatch, and that's when the and women? How did they befights start. The Gendergram is a have? How did you like it? way of spelling out those hidden assumptions, which are all root-

To bring about a ceasefire: like me much, except when you does it differently is crazy/ im- I Take a pen and paper, draw a ones did you learn from the way

circle in the middle, representing yourself as child, then write the What did you learn from the way names of significant people -Mum. Dad, aunts, baby-sitter with a plus for the positive ones What sort of things did they do?

3 Look for a pattern. It can help to ask questions about what kind of gender rules were absorbed, such as "boys don't cry". Which

you were treated? 4 Repeat for whatever stages of your life you feel are relevant, usually adolescence and childhood, and for the opposite sex.

Patterns will emerge quite quickly, and you can begin to discuss differences without climbing into the ring. Once you know where some of the patterns have come from, then you can decide whether they are useful, or could

"The trouble comes," she believes, "from the fact that many women are used to sharing with women - who are good about sharing the washing-up and cleaning. Men living together often don't care about their surroundings, and their idea of emotional bonding is leching together at

"It's a compromise," says Simone, the next time we see her. "I was naïve, and thought we'd just slip into being together all the time. But lan's not suddenly going. to develop a liking of washing-up, and I'm not going to be happy living in a flat that looks as if it's been stirred up with a large

"We're starting to realise our differences and come together on them. He's agreed that the kitchen should become a pants-free area and I've finally agreed that he can put his Heavy Metal CDs in the lounge." She pauses. "Mind you, I never said that he could actually play them ... 3

Annabelle Thorpe

John Lyttle is away

Fr Ray

hibourg, Switzer and

BIRTH

MARRIA & DEAT

15/OBITUARIES

Sir Frank Roberts

Frank Kenyon Roberts, diplomat: born Buenos Aires 27 October 1907; Charge d'Affaires to the Czechoslovak Government 1943; Minister, HM Embassy Moscow 1945-47; CMG 1946 . KCMG 1953, GCMG 1963; Principal Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs 1947-49: Deputy High Commissioner (UK), India 1949-51; Deputy Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office 1951-54; ambassador to Yugoslavia 1954-57; UK Permanent Representative, North Atlantic Council 1957-60; ambassador to the Soviet Union 1960-62; ambassador the Federal Republic of Germany 1963-68; GCVO 1965; UK Member, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Review Committee on Overseas Representation 1968-69; married 1937 Celeste Shoucair (died 1990); died London 7 January 1998.

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When Frank Roberts first met Stalin towards the end of 1945 Stalin's first words were, "I know you. You are our enemy. And what's more you are a member of the British intelligence service." Shaken by the encounter, Roberts, who was at that time Minister at the British Embassy in Moscow, left the room wondering whether he had not better ask for a transfer back to London by the next plane.

On reflection, Roberts concluded that Stalin had had in mind his wartime activities in the Central Department of the Foreign Office in London where one of his primary duties had been to support the Polish cause, often against what Stalin considered to be Soviet interests. Roberts was also reassured to be told by a Russian friend that Stalin had paid him a great compliment in "promoting" him to the British intelligence service.

Several years later, in 1948, Roberts found himself on the opposite side of the table to Stalin in negotiations for the lifting of the Berlin blockade. He was by that time Principal Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary, Ernest Bevin, and had been sent back to Moscow and speed of German air rearas Bevin's personal representative at the talks. Looking back, Roberts considered this to be one of the most interesting events of his long career.

Roberts was from the first a high-flier. He passed out top in the Foreign Office entrance examination in 1930 (coming second in the wider Home and Indian Civil Service exam), and by the time he was appointed Minister in Moscow was still only 38. At the 1948 talks on the Berlin blockade his fellow negotiators were the very much senior American and French representatives, General Bedell Smith and Yves Chattigneau.

He possessed outstanding intelligence and was a master of the "think-piece" despatch. In response to a Foreign Office request for an assessment of Soviet policy in 1946, Roberts submitted in short order three despatches which were in substance a tour de force. Constituting a comprehensive and illuminating analysis, they revealed a sound grasp of the history of Russian foreign policy and a unique knowledge of the Soviet press.

Roberts joined the Foreign Office in the days when a young entrant's first obligation was not only to purchase a diplomatic uniform, but also court dress, including knee breeches for palace levees and a special household evening coat for dinners with royalty present. Roberts recalled that all this, together with an ostrich feather hat, evening shoes, a cloak and overcoat, could then be purchased with a grant of £100.

His first overseas posting was to Paris in 1932, where the then ambassador was the immensely well-respected Lord Tyrrell. As one of the few young secretaries who played golf and bridge. Roberts got to know him well. Tyrrell rarely did more than initial papers submitted to him and when, on one occasion. a file was returned to him with a note concluding "This requires a decision", he confined himself to writing "Yes, it does."

One of Roberts's duties at the Paris Embassy was to keep in touch with Stanley Baldwin's Parliamentary Private Secretary, Geoffrey Lloyd, In London Roberts was taken by Lloyd to the House of Commons to hear the debate on air rearmament in which Baldwin dismissed Churchill's statistics on the scope mament. Afterwards. Roberts heard everyone congratulating Baldwin on his speech.

In 1935 Roberts was posted



diplomacy. Although Egypt was not a part of the British Empire. the British had special rights there, and Roberts was Private Secretary to the powerful High

Commissioner, Sir Miles Lampson (later Lord Killeam). It was an enjoyable posting not least because it was in Cairo that he met his wife, Cella, daughter of the late Sir Said Shoucair Pasha. Financial Adviser to the Sudan Government Two years later Roberts was

recalled to London and assigned to the Central Department of the Foreign Office, so called because it dealt with Central Europe and more especially with Germany, whose activities were already posing a into close contact with Antho-

Chamberlain and Churchill at 10 Downing Street.

Before the outbreak of war, was Roberts who carried all the secret communications from the disaffected German Chief of General Staff, General Beck, to Neville Chamberlain. Beck was persistently warning the British and the French of Hitler's expansionist intentions. Chamherlain dismissed the messages. as part of a Foreign Office campaign to make him change his policy of appeasement.

When, in 1938, Chamberlain had returned from his Godesberg meetings with Hitler on Czechoslovakia, and was in the Commons explaining his failure to arrange a peaceful settlemajor problem for Britain. ment. Roberts, stationed in the the war, rising to be its head. note. To wild cheering Cham- department's prime concern.

Mussolini that he had persuaded Hitler to meet with himself, the French prime minister Edouard Daladier and Hitler in Munich.

A few months later Roberts was acting as contact man between Chamberlain and Birger Dahlerus, the Swedish businessman who provided an unofficial line to Goering. Just after Britain's ultimatum to Germany had expired in 1939. Roberts received a telephone call from Dahlerus, with Goering by his side, in an attempt to save the peace. Roberts told him that it was too late, and that war had broken out.

and Czechoslovakia, Portugal and Spain. During the phoney war he also acted as Secretary to the Supreme War Council, and was then responsible for settling in Britain the Allied govemments from occupied Europe.

Roberts acted as interpreter between Churchill and General de Gaulle at some of their most important and difficult meetings. At one, he recalled, Churchill was furious with de Gaulle over the seizure by the Free French of islands in the St Lawrence estuary. When de Gaulle made no attempt to explain matters, but politely took his leave. Churchill remarked, "That was very well done. I couldn't have done it better myself."

In 1942 Roberts was responsible for the organisation of the high-level conference at St James's Palace on the question of war crimes. The conference, held at the initiative of General Sikorski, was attended by all the Allied governments in London (with the British and Americans as observers), and resulted in the modifications in international law that eventually led to the Nuremberg trials.

In 1943 he spent seven weeks in Lisbon with the British ambassador, Sir Ronald Campbell, in negotiations with Dr Salazar for an Allied airbase in the Azores. Salazar conducted the talks at his home with no one but Campbell and Roberts in the room. Roberts was fascinated by this glimpse of a dictator in action, and considered the experience as instructive as his post-war negotiations with Stalin on the Berlin blockade.

At the end of 1944 Roberts was appointed Minister in Moscow, attending the Yalta Conference en route to his new posting. His new ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr (later Lord Inverchapel), had as his passport photograph a portrait in oils of himself as a young man and kept a few geese to supply the quill pens he continued to use. Roberts's arrival in the Moscow Chancery in 1945 was felt by one contemporary, Tommy (later Lord) Brimelow, to mark its final emergence from the 18th century.

One of the major issues fac-Yalta agreements on Poland and ny Eden and Lord Halifax as berlain then announced the other key areas of Roberts's re- land throughout the war, he conference was a failure, it with Dictators. to Cairo, a key centre in British Foreign Secretaries, and with message just received from sponsibility included Poland became the ambassador's chief opened the road to progress,

adviser on a commission consisting of the Soviet Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Molotov, and the American and British ambassadors. He also dealt with issues on Romania,

Bulgaria and Hungary. In 1948 Roberts was back in London as PPS to Ernest Bevin. He found Bevin a delight to work for and, with others, grew to regard him as the greatest of Britain's modern Foreign Secretaries. Bevin, who liked to run things himself and not to be run by his Private Secretary, was rumoured to find Roberts's irrepressible activity slightly irritating but none the less recognised his precocious talent.

When the British ambassador in Moscow fell ill in 1948, Bevin sent Roberts as his personal representative to talks with Stalin on the Berlin blockade, an exceptional honour for a junior official. While Roberts always accepted that policy is laid down by governments, and therefore never exaggerated his role as negotiator, the eventual result of the talks was the end of the Berlin airlift.

Roberts found that Stalin and Molotov conducted the talks in a forthright way, although inevitably there were difficult moments. While Molotov, Roberts recalled, "when angry used to turn pea-green and stammer", General Bedell Smith discovered the best technique for dealing with Stalin, who invariably appeared in his generalissimo uniform, was the "We generals together" approach.

In 1949 Roberts was appointed Deputy High Commissioner in India, his only posting outside Europe. Two years later he returned to London as Deputy Under-Secretary of State responsible for German affairs. One of his first duties was to submit recommendations for the revision of sentences imposed at the Nuremberg trials on war criminals below Hitler's immediate circle, from General Manstein down.

Roberts was the king-pin of the British delegation at the Four Powers Conference in Berlin in 1954. The British, French and American delegations were concerned to facili-

without Soviet participation, in West Germany.

After an agreeable two years as ambassador to Tito's Yugoslavia. in February 1957 Roberts was posted to Paris as: the British Permanent Representative on the North Atlantic Council. Major political issues arising during his tenure were the Budapest, Suez and Cyprus crises and the U-2 incident. A persistent concern in Nato's internal affairs was how to bring Germany fully into the Alliance.

In 1960 Roberts returned to Moscow as ambassador. By then Khrushchev had outmanoeuvred Georgi Malenkov in the bid for the Soviet leadership, and Roberts got to know him well. Unlike Stalin, Khrushchev liked to conduct relations directly with Western ambassadors, and he also loved to go to parties. As a result, a week rarely went by when Roberts did not have the opportunity to converse with him at length.

During two years in Moscow Roberts entertained 6,000 people at the embassy. His last meeting with Khrushchev took place shortly after the Cuba missile crisis, the main event of his posting in Moscow. Khrushchev, on whose instructions the Berlin Wall had recently been built, already knew that Roberts was going as ambassador to Bong, and talked to him for two hours, mostly about his admiration for the Germans.

Five years as ambassador to Bonn from 1963 marked the summit of Roberts's career. The post of ambassador included the role of Head of the British Military Government in Berlin, which Roberts made a point of visiting once a month. His time at the embassy coincided with the Queen's highly successful state visit to Germany, first proposed by Roberts to Rab Butler in the wake of President Kennedy's famous visit to Berlin.

On retirement Roberts was invited by Michael Stewart to join the Foreign Secretary's Review Committee on Overseas Representation, better known as the Duncan Committee. A small group with three members, the committee completed Roberts remained in the ling the British Embassy in 1945 tate the progress of West a wide-ranging influential set of Central Department throughout was the follow-through to the Germany towards an indepen-recommendations on Foreign dent democratic state, while Office reforms within nine Roberts's work brought him officials' box, passed him a While Germany remained the Eastern Europe, Because Rob- Molotov was determined to months. In 1991 Roberts puberts had been dealing with Po- block change. Although the lished his memoirs, Dealing

- George Ireland

Fr Raymond Bruckberger

Raymond Léopold Bruckberger, monk, writer and cineast: born Murat, Switzerland 10 April 1907: ordained priest 1934; died Fribourg, Switzerland 4

Raymond Bruckberger entered the Dominican order in 1929, when he was aged 22. Many have been surprised to learn that he was still a Dominican. It is rare to find someone who combined such individualism with such a sense of Christianity as a collective form of worship. He was both a revolutionary and a traditionalist, an iconoclast and a devoted believer. It must be added that he was at one and the same time a legendary, heroic figure and

a ridiculous exhibitionist. His finest hour was the Second World War and its aftermath. In 1939, when he was already considered to be somewhat unusual, being a writer, a friend of some well-known intellectuals and interested in the cinema, he asked permission of his superiors to serve in a fighting unit of the French army. This was given, and he was placed under the command of Joseph Darnand, a contact with Claude Bourdet highly decorated hero of the and the Resistance.

First World War who had been prominent in certain Fascist movements. The two became friends. Bruckberger was wounded at Chantilly and was taken prisoner.

He escaped in July 1940 and made his way to Nice, where he found Darnand, who had also escaped from his prisoner-of-war camp. They worked together to create a League of Ex-Servicemen, believing that it was through their patriotism that France would recover and would free itself from the control of unworthy politicians. Together they made speeches at the inaugural ceremony of the Legion.

But Bruckberger became increasingly attracted to de Gaulle and repelled by Pétain and Vichy. He refused to swear an oath of loyalty to the regime. But if he was going to reject Vichy he believed that he should do so publicly. In May 1941, in the presence of the Bishop of Nice and the prefect, he interrupted a speech that was being made by a spokesman of Vicby on Franco-German friendship, accusing him of misquoting the writer Charles Péguy. As a consequence he was expelled from Nice and made

Bruckberger was arrested in 1942. There was a rumour that he was to be shot or transferred to an extermination camp. When Darnand learned of this he immediately went to Paris and asked the German representative to France, Otto Abetz. to spare his friend. It was probably as a result of this intervention that Bruckberger was sent

to prison for only five months.

On his release, Bruckberger took refuge in the Vivarais hills in the Massif Central. where he became close friends with Albert Camus, who was living there. Typically Bruckberger made contact with the cineast Robert Bresson, who had just returned from his prisoner-ofwar camp, and he helped him to make the film Les Anges du Péché, with which the writer Jean Giraudoux also collaborated. The subject was a convent, lost in a forest; Bruckberger was able to justify his activities in the production of this film and thereby camouflage his role in

the Resistance. This became all the more important when, at the time when de Gaulle was trying unsuccessfully to persuade a bishop to join the ranks of Free France (by then, officially Fighting France), it was decided that the Resistance movement should



Bruckberger: 'the good-time monk', whose finest hour was the Second World War

Gaullist resistance whilst working on a policy of social benefits for Vichy, appointed Bruckberger as chaplain of the Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur.

Thus it was, when the population of Paris first rose against the Germans on 19 August 1944, that Bruckberger became

have its chaplain. Alexandre a familiar sight, cycling in his Parodi, who was in charge of white Dominican robes which soon became black with smoke and dirt, going from one site of fighting to another, carrying out his missions as chaplain.

> At the same time he was preparing for the triumphant entry of de Gaulle which should include a mass of liberation. He wanted this ceremony to take

Dame des Victoires since in this way de Gaulle would avoid all contact with Cardinal Subard in Notre Dame de Paris. There the Cardinal had received not only Petain but also the German commander in Paris, But de Gaulle let it be known that he intended to go to Notre Dame

de Paris. Therefore Bruck-

church was undesirable. Thus the strangest scene of

the Liberation occurred on 26 Gaulle entered the cathedral and made his way towards the altar. Firing broke out both inside and outside Notre Dame, the General stood upright. many of the crowd behind him lay on the floor for protection, the organ was unable to play because there was no electricity. and in the sacristy the senior clergy of Paris were arguing with Bruckberger as to the propriety of excluding the Cardinal-Archbishop. After this date Bruckberger

enjoyed being a Parisian. He was seen, still wearing his battle-grimy robes, in the Rhumerie Martiniquaise on the Boulevard Saint-Germain, in the company of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. place in the Church of Notre He denounced the growing Communist influence. He attacked the Social Catholic Party that had emerged from the Resistance. But he tried to appease some of the more ferocious aspects of the settlement of accounts that was an inevitable part of the Liberation. Notably, when his old friend Darnand was condemned to

berger let it be known that the death by the High Court of Paris presence of the Cardinal in his in 1945, he attended him in his cell at Fresnes every morning until the day of his execution.

After these years it is difficult August 1944 when General de to assess his influence. For a time he was Chaplain to the Foreign Legion and served in North Africa. When Georges Pompidou became President of the Republic in 1979 he undoubtedly played a role as spiritual adviser. He intervened in favour of the former Vichy official Paul Touvier, and might well have been instrumental in procuring a pardon for the man who was to be arrested in 1989 and later found guilty of crimes against humanity. He also wrote about the role of the Church in society.

There were many quarrels: with the Pope over the Second Vatican Council, for example. There were many scandals, notably the presence of an American mistress named Barbara, or his holiday on the Greek islands with Albert Camus in 1958, when he dressed as a checkshirted cowboy. For some he became known as "the good-time monk".

He retired to Switzerland in 1962. He continued to produce many books, including Au Diable Père Bruck ("To the Devil Father Bruck") in 1986.

Douglas Johnson

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

Section 1971

A STATE OF THE STA

· Lattle is well

MURRAY: Sir Donald, ECVO CMG DI, died peacefully on 8 January, aged 73. Belowed husband of Marjorie, much lowed father of Ian, Gilly, Neil and Alex and grandfather of mue. Pu neral Service to be held at St Mary the neral Service to be near a st Mary inc Virgin, Rye, at 1.30pm on Friday 16 January. No flowers please, but char-inable donations, if desired, to Rye Health & Care Ltd. c/o Ellis Bros (Fu-neral Directors), 3 Ferry Road. Rye. East Sussex TN31 TDJ. Memorial Carrier in Lordon to be amounted Service, in London, to be announced later.

Forthcoming marriages Mr M. Smith

and Miss R. C. A. Hucknall The engagement is announced be-tween Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.G. Hucknall, of West Hoathly, West Sussex, and Michael, elder son of Mr E. Smith, of Peterleigh, Durham, and Mrs P. Andrew, of Hailsham, East Sussex.

Birthdays

Major Derek Allhusen, farmer and Olympic equestrian, 84; Sir John Al-liott, High Court judge, 66; Dame Elizabeth Anson (Lady Anson), former chairman, Association of District Councils of England and Wales, 67;

Miss Joan Baez, singer, 57; Mr Hugh Bayley MP, 46: Miss Mary Bennett, former Principal, St Hilda's College. Oxford, 85; Mr Paul Bergne, former ambassador to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, 61; Mr Ken Brown, golfer, 41; Sir John Buckley, former chairman. Davy Corporation, 85; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 48; Mr Clive Dunn. actor and comedian, 76; Sir Tony Durant, former MP, 70: Sir Graham Eyre QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 67; Mr Graham Fletcher. show jumper, 47; Mr Michael Gifford, former managing director and chief executive, Rank Organisation. 62: Father Benedict Green, theologian, 74; Mr Terry Hands, theatre and opera director, 57; Mr David Holbrook, writer, 75: Mr Leslie Holliday. former chairman, John Laing Cun-

struction, 77: Mr Raymond Horrocks chairman, Chloride Group, 68; Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys, Wollson Research Professor of the Royal Society, Leicester University, 4% Sir. Michael Jenkins, former ambassador to the Netherlands, 62; Mr Simon Jervis, Historic Buddings Secretary, National Trust, 55; Mr. Herbert Lom, actor, 81: Mr Michael Nicholson, relevision newscaster and reporter, of: Sir Harry Ognall QC, High Court judge, 64, Mrs. Joely Richardson, actress, 33: Mr David Smith, cricketer, 42; Mrs. Vicky Tuck, Principal, Cheltenham Ladies College, 45; Mr David Walker, High Commissioner to Bangladesh, 58: The Right Rev Francis West, former Bishop Suttragan of Taunion, 89; Mr Geoffrey Wragg.

Anniversaries

Births: John Jeros, Earl of St Vincent, admiral, 1735; Lascelles Abercrombie, poet and critic, 1881; Dame Gracie Fields (Grace Stansfield). singer and actress, 1898; Simone-Lucie Ernestine-Marie de Beauvoir. novelist and entic, 1908, Richard Milhous Nixon, 37th US President, 1913; Gypsy Rose Lee (Rose Louise Howick's across and strip-lease artist [9]4 Deaths: Kutherine Mansfield (Beauchamp, Kathleen Middleton Murry), writer, 1923; Karl Mannheim, -ociologi i, 1947, Waldo David trank, novelist, 1967. On this day: Jean-Pierre Blanchard, acronaul.

made the first balloon ascent in racehorse trainer, 68; Miss Susannah America, near Woodbury, New Jersey, 1793; in Britain, Income Taxwas introduced by William Pitt the Younger, the rate being two shillings in the pound, 1799; Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp was first used in a coal mine, 1816; the first trial flight of Concorde took place, Bristol. 1909. Today is the Feast Day of St

St Waningus or Vaneng.

Berhtwald of Canterbury, Saints Ju-

liun and Basilissa. St Marciana of

Rusuccur, St Peter of Sebastea and

National Gallery: Alexander Stur-"Courtauld Loans (ii): Giovanni Bellini. The Assassmatten of Saint

Victoria and Albert Museum: Christine Riding, "Rococo Ornament". 2.30pm. Royal Society, London SW1: Professor Richard Dawkins, Evolu-

tion as an Ideal Liberal Education",

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath

begins in London at 3.57pm. United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese jows Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorel): 0171-328 1026.

agogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Partne Launches the 1948 Year of Photography and the Electronic Image at the Impressions Gallery, York; Iaunches the Duke of York to Institute at Askan Brian College, York; Variation and Brian College, York; vaint Iaundino Pauthers Foodrall Clob, York; and, as Patron, the 1948 Year of Photography and the Electronic Image, attends a recorption at the Mansion House, York. Changing of the Guard
The Household Caveiry Mounted Regarder
mounts the Outer's Life fiscard at Horse Guard
Ham; 1st Buttaling Weith Guards mounts to
Outer's Guard, at Buttalingham Palace, 11,3km
band provided by the Grenather Guards.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriagos, Deaths, Piernorfal services, Weeding analysersates, in Piernorfal services, Weeding analysersates, in Piernorfal services, in the Independent, I Canada Sajures, Canary Wharf, London EM 501, telephoned to 6171-292 2022 or faxed to 6171-292 2010, and are clusted at 6455 a line (VAT sears). OTHER Gazatte announcements must be absoluted in writing for faxed and

Yes, Ms Mowlam, enter the Maze – and try to find a way out of the impasse



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHARE. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

Mo Mowlam's decision to visit the Maze prison to talk to convicted murderers so astonished the BBC's Ireland Editor that he described it as "staggering" in a news report. This sudden intrusion of tabloid adjectival excess into the corporation's sober and careful reporting was one way, at least, of marking a historic moment. What he meant was that this was something so far outside the tramlines of Northern Ireland's assumptions that he had run out of words with which to describe it. In a region well used to the demands of extreme language to name various forms of killing and other brutality, he was rendered inarticulate by Ms Mowlam's political quickstep.

What he could not say was: "A Cabinet minister, going to plead with jailed terrorists to maintain their support for the ceasefire?" Of course, she says she will not be pleading, but the truth is that the Secretary of State is treating people convicted of terrible crimes as legitimate partners in the peace process. Any right-thinking person should be brought up short by that: it runs against all the assumptions of liberal democracy.

But there was a dissonance between the BBC's language of the "unprecedented". the "brave" and the "desperate", and the quietness of the response from all the parties gathered around (and about) the peace talks table. Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, welcomed Ms Mowlam's decision. although she was going in to the segregated Maze to talk to the other side. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, said he could hardly criticise it, because he had just been in the Maze himself to talk to the loyalist paramilitaries.

The other thing the BBC could not say was that Ms Mowlam is absolutely right. The principle of not talking to terrorists was abandoned, rightly, by John Major's government. It remains a condition for taking part in peace talks that the parties must formally renounce violence. But prisoners wield much of the power in paramilitary organisations on both sides of the sectarian divide. Following the murder in the

Maze of Billy Wright, the Loyalist Volunteer Force leader, there is no doubt that it is on the loyalist prisoners that leverage now needs to be applied if the peace process is to carry on.

And this newspaper makes no apology for agreeing with Ms Mowlam that the peace process is "the only show in town". We seem to have upset The Daily Telegraph hy being rather brisk with its silly and shrill demand for Ms Mowlam to resign over the Wright killing. Yesterday, it took this paper to task for emphasising the single word "process", which it regards as an attempt to mystify appeasement of terrorism. Well, we do set much store by the word. In the phrase "peace process" it may be that the second word is the more important. So long as the representatives of Northern Ireland's people are talking to each other, however tetchily, there is some prospect of the habit of not killing each other growing.

Of course, there is a logical incompatibility between the aspirations of re-

publicans and unionists, which can never satisfactorily be resolved. But that should not mean closing our minds and hiding behind that cynical and contemptible phrase, "an acceptable level of violence" - which is, frankly, the only alternative. And, of course, it may well be that this peace process will founder; that Ms Mowlam's boldness will go unrewarded. But meanwhile fewer people are being killed, and greater understanding is being fostered, than if we listened to the "anti-appeasers"

of the English right wing. It is accepted, especially by Ms Mowlam herself, that she is taking a risk in going to the Maze today - though the real risk is simply that she has set a precedent in the event of failure. If the peace process collapses and the killing resumes, there is a danger that any bunch of deluded murderers will think they can summon the Secretary of State to their cells to talk

But she is right to go because there is a feeling among unionists in general, and those who have in the past resorted to violence in particular - whether or not it is justified, is irrelevant - that their community is not being heard. All the attention in the early part of the peace process has been focused on Sinn Fein, many of whose negotiators have served prison sentences for terrorist offences. She knows that, and that is why she is being, not merely appearing to be, even-banded.

It is, as Suzanne Moore comments on the opposite page, one of Ms Mowlam's political strengths that, as a woman, she may find it easier to break out of the tramlines of Northern Ireland politics and disrupt expectations. But there is also a downside, which is that much of the unionist hostility to her is born of chauvinism. The vocal supporters of hard-line unionism in the English press also tend to tread on the edge of cheap sexism. She must press on regardless. Let us hope that the hard men of Ulster will respond in a more responsible manner than London's little unionists.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Hopes for Ulster

Sir. The press and the BBC are full of worries that the Northern Ireland negotiations may break down because of the events in the Maze and revenge

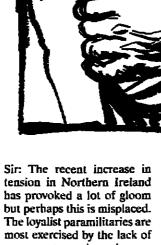
Things are bound to get worse before they can get better. That they are getting worse. in day-to-day incidents, may even be a sign that they are getting better, for the simple reason that those fanatics who want no compromise will do all they can to wreck it.

Better not to get caught by the extremists in the day-to-day reporting of incidents but also to feature what the outcome of negotiations is likely to be. The leaders would not have gone so far if they did not intend compromise, even if it takes time for their party activists to see that there is no other way out. They do know that the ordinary people in both communities got sick to death of the Troubles. That led to the ceasefires, and the feeling is still there.

The sad thing is that the only possible compromises that can "square the circle" of unionism and nationalism are very little different than at Sunningdale over 25 years ago: a parliament executive, rolling devolution of nowers as mutual agreement is reached, a Bill of Rights, equal status for the symbols of Ulster's two traditions, and a periodic referendum on "some form of unity".

The most difficult to agree will be the periodicity of a border poll. But it would put the big question off for a future generation to decide. Each set of leaders will air a different view on the probable outcome. Hume and Adams will count on the popular belief in the Catholic birth-rate (which demographers now question). Trimble and the loyalist leaders have a present majority and will know that about a quarter of the Catholic population tell pollsters that they do not want a united Ireland (but they may be waiting to see, quite sensibly, what is in the package economically).

I read or hear no such discussion of eventual outcomes. only over-reaction to daily incidents created by wreckers, or else bleak pessimism that only force can prevail - I mean "the security solution", which has failed, but so has the IRA's attempt to force surrender. Professor BERNARD CRICK



movement on the prisoners issue. That issue is emotive but politically it is among the easiest of those facing the British government in Northern Ireland. A great deal of confidence can be built relatively straightforwardly. Why doesn't the Secretary of State declare ber

intention to allow a limited amnesty for all paramilitary organisations that stick to their current ceasefire, effective from, say, three months after the conclusion of the talks in It is time for a bold gesture

to clear the air and restore momentum to the peace process. But an impromptu visit to the Maze is probably not the N D MARTIN-CLARK



landslide victory.

ter, 5 January).

Tories and Europe

Sir: The Conservative Party entered last year's general election with an untenable fence-sitting compromise on European economic and monetary union. It alienated a key segment of its core vote, reducing its percentage of the poll so much that Labour's 43 per cent of the vote translated into an unnecessary

Some of those who prevented the last government from adopting a principled policy of opposition to EMU now say that they "will support Tony Blair" on this crucial issue (let-

In answer to a question in the Commons on 15 December. the Prime Minister declared that "we should judge whether we enter monetary union according to our national interest, and that is defined by the economic tests that we have

Most Conservatives who oppose EMU do so as much for

political reasons as for economic ones; but the Labour government's position means that - provided that their economic tests are passed - there is no loss of political sovereignty or independence which would prevent them from joining EMU.

It is sad to see parliamentarians of any party encouraging such a danger to democracy.

Dr JULIAN LEWIS MP (New Forest East, C) DESMOND SWAYNE MP (New Forest West, C) LAURENCE ROBERTSON MP (Tewkesbury, C) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: The appallingly blinkered letter you published from a number of Conservative exministers in favour of economic and monetary union placed EMU at the heart of Europe and favoured European dogma against British priorities. You can see why the electorate rejected them in

May last year. If they are so keen on Mr Blair, let them join his party.

Although Maastricht requires economic convergence by intending EMUists, only Britain seems likely to meet the tests without cooking the books. For EMU to be a success requires sustained convergence. The improbability of this, taken with the way we predominantly trade outside Europe, the way our businesses use equity finance instead of being owned largely by big banks, the size of our financial services sector, and the way people here buy houses with variable-rate loans, all argue for ongoing strain and hardship if ever we were mad enough to go in.

The inability of a country under EMU to rely on the markets to change the price of its currency when this is required during the economic cycle means that "fiscal transfers" to or from other countries will be required instead. In plain English, this means that the suc-

cessful will have to pay a tax on their success to those who have failed. The rate of the "EMU tax", those liable to pay, and those benefiting will be decided on by unelected officials rather than our elected

representatives. MICHAEL LAGER Chairman, Braintree Constituency Conservative **Association** Witham, Essex

Anglo-Saxon upset

Sir: How on earth can someone with the name Hamish McRae refer with a straight face to "we Anglo-Saxons" ("The dawning of the age of the Anglo-Saxon", 7 January)?

The term "Anglo-Saxon" as an economic category is deeply irritating, inaccurate and highly un-PC. Given that the US is the main country thus denoted, I'm surprised that our American cousins, sensitive and literalminded as they are in these matters, haven't fired volleys of criticism at this racist and WASP-privileging epithet. If it is true that the US and

the UK - we may also cite New Zealand and the Celtic tiger, Ireland - share a common and distinctive economic model, why not call it "Anglophone"? Not only is this more neutral; it also draws attention, as does Hamish McRae, to the role that happening to speak English has played in these countries' current good fortune. AIDAN FOSTER-CARTER

Classic gas-guzzlers

West Yorkshire

Sir: David Roots (letter, 7 January) calls for classic car owners to be compensated for the withdrawal of leaded fuel. I was under the impression that they were already receiving compensation: they don't pay road tax on these fuel-hungry, noisy,

outdated cars. MARK ORMISTON Isleworth, Middlesex

Under the Dome

Sir: The Great Exhibition and the Festival of Britain are cited as models for the Dome exhibition. But both earlier exhibitions contained magnificent objects which needed to be seen to be truly appreciated.

In contrast, advocates for the Dome imply that the displays will be primarily intellectual or even spiritual (mind-boggling) in content. Andrew Marr ("True confessions of a social outcast", 7 January) suggests several topics, among them: "Is the car culture going to carry on growing or shrivel away?", "What future is there for the countryside?", "Is there a limit to human longevity?" Each would make a fascinating newspaper article, book or television programme, but how do you create an attractive exhibition from such abstract themes? And what could be included that has to be seen in situ, over several acres, standing up, after a tedious journey with (in my case) small children in tow, rather than mulled over on video or in print in a comfortable armchair at home?

By all means let us mark the millennium with some stimulating debate, but do it in The Independent or take over the BBC for a day or a week and give the money to the numerous splendid, cash-starved museums and galleries around Britain which still have magnificence on display.

RACHEL WARD London W2

Sir: I wish I could share Andrew Marr's optimism that the Dome will be more Sartre than surfball. However, I cannot believe that a tired collection of establishment figures, obsessed with secrecy and their own importance. will produce anything more than Noel's House Party on a grand scale. This, rather than Mr Marr's set of questions, seems the limit of their ambitions. MALCOLM ACE

Colden Common, Hampshire

Sir: Surely the more imminent Millennium Bug is what to call the next two decades. Last time, they got round the probiem by having a king who hardly lasted through the first one and ensuring the second was dominated by the bloodiest war yet seen. What alternative is there this time to the "Noughties" and "Teenies"? CHRISTIAN WOLMAR London N19

It's a mystery – the strange death of the Irish peace process in three gripping chapters



KINGTON

Today I am bringing you a complete murder mystery story in which YOU the detective will be presented with ALL the cvidence necessary to solve the CRIME and then, after you have failed dismally to do it, I will give you the SOLUTION and you will bang your head on the steering wheel, saying "Lordy, Lordy, I should have seen that coming!"

OK? Get the idea?

Right, here we go then with the story of: "The Strange Death of The Northern Ireland Peace Process".

CHAPTER ONE

"I'm afraid it's dead, sir, There's nothing we can do."

The speaker was someone

Constabulary. He was speaking to someone even higher up. He was talking about the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

"The Peace Process? Dead? But I saw it only the other day! It seemed quite healthy!" said the Very Important Officer. "Healthy? In what sort of way, sir?"

The very important officer considered for a moment.

"Well," said the VIO (Very Important Officer - DO keep up), "it seemed all poised for action. It wasn't actually moving or anything, but then it never has actually moved or anything, has

"No, sir," said the Quite Important Officer. "That was always its charm in a way. How- Fein, the Unionists, Mo

very high up in the Royal Ulster ever much you insulted it. or Mowlam and Angus Deayton." to do with us. We have an alibi. thing but Northern Ireland, had an alibi, except Ian Paisley, praised it, however much you said you depended on it, it never lost its temper or reacted nastily."

> "Or reacted at all, really." said the VIO. "Always behaved with true British sang-froid. Strange to have a French word for such a British thing, eh?" "What French word, sir;"

"Sang-froid." "Right, sir." said the QIO. humouring him yet again. "So

that's it. The peace process has been found dead." "Completely dead?" "Yes, sir."

"Murdered?"

"Yes, sir."

"Suspects?" "Yes, sir. The IRA. Sinn "Angus Deayton? Why

"Always liked the look of him," said the QIO, blushing. "Thought it might be quite nice to have him in for questioning."

"All right," said the VIO. "Round up all the suspects and let me have their statements."

CHAPTER TWO Here are the statements of all

the main suspects. Sinn Fein: "Nothing to do with us. We were looking forward to the Peace Process, It

sounded fun. The IRA felt the same. Not that we know what the IRA think. But that's what we're guessing." IRA: "I'm sorry to hear the

Peace Process is dead. Nothing

We were out buying some new balaclava helmets. Look, here's the receipt. No, sorry, that one's for the Semtex. This one."

Unionists: "This is yet another example of the way the government, of whatever complexion, have consistently flouted the wishes of the majority of the population of Northern Ireland. We blame the government. And Sinn Fein/TRA, And Dublin. And the Pope, Anyone but ourselves."

Mo Mowlam: "It's a tragedy. It's another tragedy in the history of Ulster. Another bleeding tragedy in the bleeding history of this bleeding country. oh God, are you listening, Tony? Tony! Look, I'll take Health, Education, anything, I'll do any-

even Question Time, just get me out of here! Otherwise I'll go round the bend and start visiting prisoners in The Maze!!"

Angus Deayton: "And at the end of another motorway- monotonous round, we have Sinn Fein steaming along in the slow lane with a thoroughly legal 45mph, and the Unionists in the fast lane with an incredibly similar 45mph, and what's that ahead in the middle lane - it's the corpse of the Peace Process! So, no change there, then." Ian Paisley: "It's a diabolical

betrayal ..."

CHAPTER THREE The Solution

Did you solve the mystery? Did you notice that everyone who is barking mad and doesn't count? And Mo Mowlam? Who has no motive? Therefore the only possible

solution is that no murder took

That's right! The Northern Ireland Peace Process was dead all along, and has been for years! It's just that nobody dares

to point it out. Except Angus Deayton. Did

you notice the way he said that the peace process was dead No change there, then ..."??

I think he knows more than he lets on. I think we'll have him in for

another session. Should be fun. And get his autograph for the wife

Welfare reform - we haven't seen anything yet



DONALD MACINTYRE ON HARMAN'S CRUSADE

It isn't her fault, but Nicola Horlick has become something of a codeword in Whitehall for the idiocies of the welfare state. A woman earning £60 per week at the check-out at Tesco is below the lower carnings limit for national insurance. As a result she receives no state-funded maternity benefit. By contrast a high-flying woman City executive is entitled to receive 90 per cent of her full pay reimbursed by the taxpayer - for 14 full weeks every time she has a child. In the case of an executive earning £1m, that means £18,000 per week. And that's desnite the fact that she - like every other higher earner - stops paying national insurance above £25,000 per year.

The injustice of this - which DSS officials are currently working on ending in a shake-up of the £500m maternity pay budget - is worth mentioning because it's a reminder of the many aspects of welfare reform that having nothing at all to do with grinding the faces of the poor. It also underlines that for a Government whose first hard choice on welfare reform blew up in its parliamentary face, it shows every sign of being restless to find others to make.

Let's take a few examples: the leaked David Blunkett letter betrayed deep unease about some of the D\$S's proposals on disability benefit and these arguments have not yet been resolved. But I detect no sign that Ms Harman has been pushed off her determination, while ensuring that the genuinely disabled are protected. to seeing to it that less of the £23m disability budget is spent on those who do not need or deserve it. There is a strong case for loading much more of the bill for industrial injuries compensation on compulsory no-fault insurance for employers, but in any case Harman is determined to spend more on preventing accidents in the workplace and less on paying for the consequences of them. There are already longer range, second-term thoughts on the huge difficulty of whether to means-test the old age pension: should, for example, the old age pension be inversely related to earnings so that the higher earners get less from the state when they retire? All these and many more sacred cows look distinctly threatened. The surprising thing about Ms Harman is how fast she bounces back. She is busily telling colleagues that there isn't a single aspect of the welfare state she regards as working properly.

I do not mean to suggest that there are no problems. One is that there are still serious disagreements between Frank Field and Harriet Harman over the draft he has

produced for the Green Paper on welfare reform - which ought now to be close to publication, but isn't yet. One version is that this is less about principle - after all Field and Harman are both arch-modernisers - than about the intensely cerebral nature of the current draft. But it matters, because ministers badly need a text that can form the basis of the campaign to persuade the party and the country that welfare reform is about a lot more than being more right wing about social security than Peter Lilley. Both the row over lone parents' benefit and the leaks over planned cuts in disability benefit descended on the Government without it having set out in a clear and accessible way what it is trying to do. And that is a task that cannot be left to Harriet Harman and Blair himself.

Blair has told his most senior ministers that the Government will be judged on the success of welfare reform; he himself stressed its central importance in a speech at Sedgefield before Christmas. Blair has been reading intensely on welfare over the festive period. But to sell it, not least to the party, the John Prescotts, the David Blunketts and the Frank Dobsons, as well as the Gordon Browns, need to be making at least as many speeches in favour of radical welfare reform as Blair himself. And to do that, there has to be Cabinet agreement on its firm outlines. There also has to be recognition among some of the toughest-minded on welfare reform that some of the fears - for example over disability benefit - are shared by those who are not against reform of any kind. Which is one reason why the Cabinet Committee which Blair will chair, and which he also announced before Christmas, is so important. There are some policies that Harman and her close ally Brown could not, however hard they tried, persuade Prescott and Dobson of on their own. Only Blair has the capacity to do that, and although the composition of the committee has not yet been finalised, both men

Having eschewed the seductive path of having an easy life in the party, Ms Harman is extraordinarily unbowed by the criticism she took over the cuts in lone parents' benefit. She appears as convinced as ever that the current social security system is in dire need of reform and that it can, in time, be made as popular as the NHS. And this is an important point. The most modernising ministers, Harman included, are convinced that while there will be endless aggravation within the party over the famously hard choices that the Government will have to make in the coming months, the electorate is more than

Many people think the wheelchairbound and the severely disabled get less than they deserve. They worry intensely that many severely handicapped children are virtually abandoned by the state when they reach working age. Many of those same people are equally annoyed when they notice that the man who is drawing a handsome whack of benefit because of his had back seems to have no trouble digging his garden. Much of the party will shiver; but Harman remains convinced that among as many in Labour's natural constituency of core supporters as among the traditional Daily Mail readers of Middle England, the demand for a cleaner, fairer welfare state is irresistible.

Mo Mowlam's disarming ways may be just what is needed today



SUZANNE MOORE **WOMAN IN** THE MAZE

"Astonishing". "Unprecedented". "Audacious". These were among the words that greeted the news that Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is going to walk into the "the lion's den" of the Maze Prison in order to talk to loyalist inmates to try to persuade them to stay in the peace talks. All these words could be used of Mowlam's political style itself. No other Secretary of State has gone to the H-blocks for discussions with convicted terrorists but then no other Secretary of State has been Mo Mowlam.

Clearly many observers were shocked and dismayed by her decision. When it comes to Ireland, it is almost as if we are so familiar with inertia and failure that anything new is a threat in itself. While the old methods used to bring about peace have not worked, there is still a tangible fear of the new. Mowlam's 'gamble" comes out of her determination to keep the peace train in motion. Indeed her language these days indicates that her goal has shifted from finding a peace settlement to simply being that of keeping everyone talking. We do not need to be reminded of what the

alternative to not talking is. Should the talks fall apart this would be perceived not only as a political failure for Mowlam but a personal one too for a woman who values communication above all else. Her whole image is that of a matey, earthy woman who talks easily and affectionately to everyone.

This is not just an image, as anyone who has met her will tell you. Chewing gum, Mowlam will kick off her shoes and complain that her bra is too tight. As a politician she has kissed not just babies but granite-faced old unionists. She puts her arm around anyone who gets near, patting and prodding her way into meetings. She tells bad jokes and reveals more than she should about confidential matters. Her informality is part of her charm. Though she may appear as someone who doesn't care what people think of her, anyone who



makes this much effort with others obviously cares enormously what other people think. All this "take me as you find me" lark must also be calculated. It marks her out from other politicians and has worked up uptil now largely to her advantage. Not everyone succumbs to

Mo's charm. The condemnation of her by many in Northern Ireland can be seen, as David McKittrick has pointed out on this page, as good old-fashioned chauvinism. Politics in the North is still frighteningly male-dominated. Republicans and unionists alike may have actually found it easier to deal with the quasi-colonial attitudes of former Northern Ireland Secretaries than the unknown quantity that Mowlam represents.

What she has done, which no previous occupant of her post has managed to do before, is to bring the troubles home. People in Britain are more interested in the peace process because of the way she has personalised it. Up until now, the politics of Northern Ireland, though declared important, have actually been a minority interest. A mixture of ignorance and frustration has governed

the British attitude to the whole mess. While many male politicians have talked loftily about securing a place in history should they bring peace to Northern Ireland, Mowlam just wants to talk, replacing ideology with what feels like common sense. What was once dismissed as Mowlam's effortlessly chatty and over-familiar style reveals itself to be an entirely new way of thinking about the Northern Ireland situation, one which is inclusive and bu-

man. This is not just the result

of her praematism but also of

her intellect.

If it pays off then, it will have been a stroke of genius by Blair to put his most touchy-feely player in charge of the hardest game in town. Yet if Mowlam represents the new politics, a new way of doing things, then we might ask where the up-andcoming Mo Mowlams are among the surprisingly docile intake of female MPs. Maybe it is too early for many of them to manifest anything like an individual style as they are subject not only to party discipline but also the reality of life in the House. As one poor woman MP replied in the recent Fawcett

Society survey of women MPs, "I have been desperately unhappy since being elected ... I hate this place."

The problem for these women is precisely the one that Mowlam seems to have conquered. How are they to be themselves - that is, women and operate in this hostile political culture. One could argue that the most successful women politicians, from Barbara Castie to Margaret Thatcher and now Mowlam herself, have not denied their femininity but used it strategically. Thatcher was expert at donning the gar- for women in power to retain ments of various female ar- a personality that has not been chetypes - housewife mother. warrior queen - when it suited her, and dismissing other aspects of her femaleness when it didn't - so that she could be more of a man than any of her colleagues. Castle always made sure her hair and clothes were perfect, as though her ultra-

threat of her political nous.

Mowlam's strategy has been different. She acts like one of the boys but, because she is not one of the boys, she both gets away with things that none of them would and insulted for things they wouldn't. Her sheer bravery over her illness, her matter of factness about her appearance, the famous slapping of the wig on the table reveal a woman who knows that there is more to life than feminine vanity. She is thus curiously vulnerable and unbelievably hard at the same time.

In some peculiar way, her illness (and the weight gain that has accompanied it) has made it possible for her not only to cuddle up to all sorts of strangers but for them to cuddle up to her too, as she appears devoid of threat.

There are those who wonder whether despite her constant good humour she is being asked to deliver more than she is capable of. The drudgery of this job, the endless flights, the incredibly slow progress must take their toll. If her charm doesn't work, what other resources dos she have? We have seen how tough she is physically but there is still uncertainty about her political toughness. But then isn't this always the question that is ultimately asked about women in powerful jobs. Can they back it?

However, when people talk of the feminisation of society, of the effect of baving more women in public life and in the workplace, they are usually referring to the qualities that we so value in Mo Mowlam coming to the fore and being properly recognised. A less hierarchical, more informal, more personalised style will dominate. Indeed the new management books are full of this feminised language, of webs and horizontal, rather than vertical, structures, full of workers co-operating instead of competing with each other, all to the benefit of the company.

If this is the case, where then are the other Mo Mowlams? Why does she appear so excentional? Why is it so difficu prepared earlier by the Millbank geeks, one that is full of complexity?

In the present situation, however, we must be thankful for Mo's uniqueness. It is what makes her so disarming. Let us hope that the murderers of the Maze are equally disarmed femininity would lessen the by her.

Out in the cold - boys at school, men at home



JACK O'SULLIVAN ON THE REAL DIFFERENCES

It has been a good week for boys. At last the Government is tackling their educational under-achievement. At last ministers accept that boys may have different needs to girls, needs that their schooling should acknowledge. So, all week we have been discussing whether more male primary teachers are required, whether the curriculum is too "female" for boys, providing insufficient emphasis on their interests. Meanwhile, some educationalists have argued that boys' brains develop at a different rate to girls', making it a mistake for some to tackle reading and writing as early as girls.

The validity and importance of such comments, in explaining boys' underperformance, is questionable. Research evidence is incomplete and often anecdotal. So, given the emotionally charged nature of the subject, there is a danger of over-hasty, wrong-headed recommendations that will do lit-

tle to help boys. Nevertheless, this week's policy shift is monumental. For it has, at a stroke, freed us from an intellectual straitjacket. Suddenly, it is OK to admit that, in education and public policy terms, boys are not neutered. It is no longer a heresy to say they may be fundamentally different from girls, requiring different treatment.

perfectly obvious to most people. But sexual politics likes to avoid it, concentrating instead on equality of treatment. The fear has been that too much talk about difference between the sexes will be used to excuse discrimination against women. The Nineties are, thankful-

ly, seeing the boundaries of the gender debate loosened, not only for the benefit of boys. In the US, a string of recent books have examined deep-rooted differences between the way men and women think. John Gray's Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus exemplifies an approach designed to improve don't have in common. Likewise, the American psy-

chologist, John Gottman, has identified biological reasons why men and women act in such contrary ways. In his recent book, Why Marriages Succeed or Fail, he argues that men, for example, stonewall in argument to protect themselves from heart disease: because, once emotionally excited, it is hard for them to calm down. This weakness is a hangover from their neanderthal days as protectors, when it was important for them to remain on high alert for long periods. In contrast, women will argue relentiessly with men - not knowing when to stop - when something has

ship. The evolutionary reason? Because well-developed, thoroughly explored relationships were vital for vulnerable mothers nursing habies. So why are we allowing our-

selves at this particular time to think about differences between the sexes? Perhaps this reflects the fact that the argument for treating men and women equally has triumphed intellectually, if not yet on the ground. So we can afford to acknowledge different needs. It is also hardly surprising that the shift should have come with respect to boys - concern about them is something upon which both women relationships between the sex- and men, being mothers and faes by acknowledging what they thers, can easily share. Whatever the reason, the liberalisation of debate should benefit both men and women by facilitating their mutual understanding and allowing their different needs to be addressed.

> There are two further ressons why this week's initiative represents a liberation for the gender debate. The first concerns recognition among experts that boys are doing no worse than in the past - their longstanding failure is merely being highlighted by female advancement. (Decades ago the 11-plus figures had to be fiddled because girls were doing so well and would have outnumbered boys in grammar schools.) This is a fascinating

that the education system served boys badly even in the days of "male domination" you can question whether all sorts of institutions, designed when men controlled everything, ac-

Second, the implication of the Government's announcement was that "feminisation" of the educational culture may have ill-served boys. And the package of measures, such as introducing more male teachers, amounts to the admission that primary education, at the very least, needs some "masculinisation".

tually did men much good.

We have come to assume that "feminisation" is always a good thing. And certainly both men and women will speak of its virtues in the workplace better communication and more flexible hours. Meanwhile, that ugly term "masculinisation" is usually regarded as negative, synonymous with male authoritarianism.

However, the inadequacies of boys' education suggests publicly, perhaps for the first time, that some forms of feminisation can alienate and damage some males. They may need schools to be designed more in their image.

If this is true in schools, then where else might the argument for less feminisation, more masculinisation, apply? If you were to look for one institution, oth-This difference may seem gone wrong in their relation- admission. Once you realise er than school, to which we

would like males to feel a greater attachment, it is the home.

Home is a place where many men clearly do not feel much at home. They often seem to be more at ease in the pub, the garden shed or the allotment. Typically, they do not entertain their friends at home in the way that women do so easily. Walk into most houses and it is easy to see why - the decorating is almost always conceived by women and the vital rooms, kitchen, bathroom and living room, are normally female domains. Yet we live in an age when the needs of good parenting and sustained marital relationships demand that men should feel comfortable with being at home and not take flight as so many do.

The implications of making traditionally "female" institutions more inviting to males, will understandably worry many women. Likewise, they may be concerned about what the new focus on boys at school will mean for their daughters. But such issues, freed up by this week's announcement, will have to be tackled if we are to move to a world in which the war between the sexes is, finally, to come to an end. Negotiating an acceptable new dispensation will require all the mutual understanding that the likes of John Gray and John Gottman are busy imparting to men and

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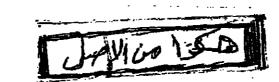
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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Festive sales surge lifts gloom from the high street

Fears that higher interest rates would lead to a poor Christmas for retailers have been allayed by a crop of upbeat trading statements from stores groups. Most show that while December

started slowly, shops were rescued by a late surge in consumer spending in the final days

before Christmas. Nigel Cope and Andrew Yates report on yet another year when shoppers left it late.

The high street was given a boost by buoyant trading statements yesterday by a wide range of retailers including Signet, the H Samuel and Ernest Jones jewellery retailer, JJB Sports, and Majestic Wine Warehouses, the off-licence group. Following better than expected figures from John Lewis and Burton, analysts said the worries over Christmas "bloodbath" had proved unfounded.

Richard Hyman of Verdict Research said: "Christmas did arrive late but this trend is well established. Lots of people took the last week before Christmas off work and did their shopping then. It won't be a bonanza Christmas but it will be solid."

However, he warned that 1997 would be seen as the high water mark for high street fortunes in the 1990s as higher interest rates took their toll. "The slowdown has begun and we think that it will continue throughout 1998." He said some retailers would have experienced a difficult Christmas terday. with fashion groups said to have had the toughest time.

There was little caution in the air yesterday, however, as Signet led the way with an optimistic message that it would now exceed its profit expectations for the year.

The former Ratners jewellery group reported that in the nine weeks to January 3 like-for-like sales increased by 8.3 per cent in the same period last year. It said it now expected to "comfortably exceed" market expectations for its full year profits. Analysts have now upgraded their forecasts from around £60m to £65m and the shares rose 3.5p to 33,25p. The smaller, more upmar-

ket Ernest Jones chain led the way while sales at the more mass-market H Samuel chain rose by only 1.7 per cent in the period. Signet chairman Jim McAdam said sales of diamonds, silver, gift products and wristwatches had been strong.

"The build-up to Christmas was generally slower than predicted but there was a late surge. We held our nerve and didn't start discounting so we were able to maintain our margins."

JJB Sports, the fast-growing sports retailer, continued its good run with sales in the 6 weeks to 28 December ahead by 10 per cent. This excludes new openings. David Greenwood, financial director, said Adidas had proved the best performing brand of the year, edging ahead of Nike. He said JJB's sales had started strongly in early December but, in contrast to most other retailers, tailed off slightly in the last two weeks. Sales picked up again after Christmas.

Wine sales have also been buoyant over Christmas. According to Majestic Wines, the wine warehouse operator, the feel good factor has made champagne and red wines very popular over the festive period. Tim How, chief executive of Majestic, said: "Our red clarets have been our best sellers. I believe wines are continuing to sell well across the industry. The strong economy ... and the trend for men to switch from beer to wine explain the growth."

Majestic Wines said sales were up by one-fifth in the last eight weeks of the year, with like for like turnover up 10.9 per cent. The strong trading performance helped Majestic shares rise 20p to 421.5p yes-

However, the group denied reports that is had been subject to a £65m takeover offer. "It is a lot of rubbish. We have not had any offers or approaches. The idea of a bid for just £65m is insulting," Mr How said.

Two other retailers also reported upbeat sales messages yesterday. Merchant Retail Group, which operates perfume shops and department stores said it sales were ahead by 14 per cent on a like for like basis in the 13 weeks to 27 December. TJ Hughes, the discount department store operator said its sales were up by 18 per cent in the five weeks to 3 January.



The high street was given a boost by buoyant trading statements yesterday by a wide range of retailers as Christmas 'bloodbath' fears proved unfounded

Relief as Bank of England holds off interest rate rise

News yesterday of a general recovery on the high street coincided with the Bank of England's decision not to raise interest rates. The Bank's announcement sent the pound lower and brought relief all round - for the time being. Diane Coyle,

Economics Editor, reports.

Retail spending in December was higher than many had feared, according to the Confederation of British Industry. Its latest survey reported a recovery in the growth of sales volumes, both before and after Christ-

mas, following a slowdown in November. Alastair Eperon, chairman of the survey panel for the CBI, said: "We will be monitoring January's figures closely to see whether the slight upward momentum in consumers' spending is sustainable."

The employers' organisation also welcomed the Bank of England's decision to leave interest rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent. Kate Barker, chief economist, said: "Further interest rate rises risk having too great an impact when the economy is already expected to be sluggish."

The pound shed more than three pfennigs vesterday, falling to just over DM2.93. The benchmark long gilt yield dropped to a record low below 6 per cent. Both moves were driven by hopes that the Bank's decision could mark an end to the series of rises in the cost of borrowing, as well as by the US financial markets.

The US Treasury bond market got a boost from figures showing a small fall in prices charged at the factory gate in November. Producer prices declined by 0.2 per cent to a level 0.6 lower than a year earlier, mainly due to lower car and truck prices. But City analysts remained divided about whether a sixth increase in UK interest rates since May 1 is either necessary or likely, especially after yesterday's sur-

vey and another earlier in the week show-

ing the service industries still very buoyant.

Some think that the economy is not slow-

ing fast enough to keep the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee happy. "This is just a stay of execution," said Leo Doyle of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

predicting a rate rise next month. However, Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers said: "The export sector has already weakened, and consumer spending will follow." He disagreed with the majority view that rates would climb another quarter point in February.

The CBI survey showed that the balance of retailers reporting higher rather than lower sales climbed to 35 per cent in

December, up from a weak 23 per cent in November. The respondents expected a further gain in January, although their expectations have often been disappointed recent months.

Food, confectionery, clothing, DIY stores and booksellers all enjoyed a strong December. All except shoe shops did better than they had in November. Motor traders also reported a big jump in sales in December, defying their earlier fears of a downturn.

Official figures for December sales on the high street will be published later this month. Meanwhile, the Office for National Statistics issued figures yesterday painting the most comprehensive portrait of sales in the distributive and service industries during the third quarter of 1997. These showed car sales in the UK reaching a record £22.5bn. The total soared 20 per cent compared to the second quarter and was 10 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Drinks industry fears move to ban sport sponsorship

The £40m that drinks companies pour into British sports sponsorship every year is under threat from a controversial French plan to ban drinks advertising for international sporting events. However, as Andrew Yates reports, new European legislation could bring cheer to the British drinks industry.

A move by the French Government to enforce a ban on sports sponsorship from alcoholic drinks companies could put pressure on them to withdraw advertising from big sporting

There are growing fears that the European Commission (EC) has decided to ignore a complaint from the drinks industry over France's decision to ban domestic drinks advertising, a controversial policy known as Loi Evin. The EC has again delayed a final decision on whether to uphold the complaint after furious lobbying from French Eurocrats. "There is a feeling they want to sweep this under the carpet," said one source in Brussels.

The decision could have potentially devastating consequences for the UK sports industry. Drinks companies are involved in sponsoring every major sports including Carling Black Label's support for football's premier league and the new deal Tetley Bitter has recently signed to back the English cricket team. Major sporting events such as the Stella Artois tennis tournament and the Martell Grand National could also be affected. The sponsorship market in the UK is worth an estimated £350m a year. Drinks companies account for about 12 per cent of this, or more than £40m a year. US drinks company Budweiser has also run into

British Telecom is to bring forward plans to

after some of its biggest customers complained

The disruption began on Monday morning.

that lines were swamped by calls this week.

as BT customers jammed freephone or low-

cost numbers used by businesses such as in-

surance companies. BT attributed what it

claimed was the "unprecedented" fourfold in-

crease in freephone calls connected with

storm damage and the two-week Christmas

break. More than 10 million calls were made

to 0800, 0345 and 0990 numbers on the BT net-

work, with demand for lines soaring tenfold dur-

ing the busiest period on Monday morning.

BT moves to avert freephone logiams

spend £200m on improvements to its network. BT's recently appointed group managing di-

trouble coping with the strict ban on drinks advertising and the move has raised a question mark over sponsorship of this years World Cup in France. If the EC chooses to ignore the issue and effectively back France's position, it could cause huge problems for the coverage of some of the UK's largest sporting events. French TV producers are putting enormous pressure on organisers to remove any form of drinks ad-

vertising from sporting arenas and are threatening to withdraw coverage from events if their demands are not met. The situation has got so bad that two big recent sporting events were banned completely. French viewers were faced with a blank screen when they tried to tune into a European football tie between Arsenal and Auxerre and an Irish rugby game from Dublin. The sports industry is becoming increasingly

worried that drinks companies could withdraw from sponsorship if French TV stations persist in banning events. The move has caused an outcry from the British drinks companies. The European Spon-

sorship Consultants' Association (ESCA), an industry-wide body set up to lobby against the French policy, is outraged by the continuing wrangles in Brussels. "We want this to be stopped and are trying

to alert people to the danger. There is a fear that this could spread to other countries in Europe and make life very difficult for sponsors." said Helen Day, a sponsorship expert with the However, a green paper, which experts be-

lieve will be adopted by the EC later this year. is likely to bring hope to the drinks companies. It promotes the principle of free trade between countries and should give the drinks companies a powerful weapon in their battle with the French Government. They hope the paper will give them right to show drinks sponsored sports events throughout Europe.

It emerged yesterday that Bill Cockburn,

rector, has written personally to apologise to

major business customers affected, who com-

plained that many callers were unable to get

through. The letter invited companies to join

in plans to design improvements to the network.

good track record. "The measures we are tak-

ing are aimed at ensuring that if ever such ex-

ceptional circumstances occur again, service will

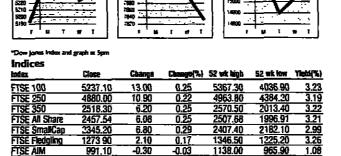
its network in the financial year starting in April.

BT said it would spend £110m upgrading

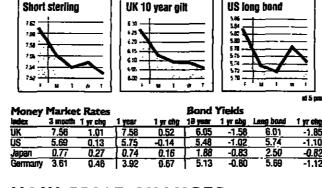
not be affected in the same way."

Mr Cockburn insisted BT's services had a

STOCK MARKETS



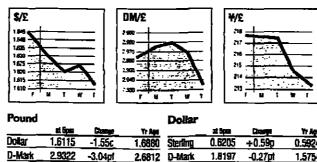
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Card (M)	% Cingo	Falls	Price (p)	(c) (p)	% Chapt
Signet Grp	33.25	3.50	11.76	Standard Charter	597.00	-32.50	-5.16
Glynwed Inti	277.00	15.00	5.73	Premier Oil	51.00	-2,50	-4.67
Beazer Grp	174.00	8.50	5.14	Hardy Oil&Gas	273.5	-13	-4.54
Somerfield	230.50	11.00	5.01	Eng China Clays	253	-11.5	-4.35

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

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Silver (\$)	6.06	-0.03	4.66	Base F	izies	7.25	6.00	
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Electricity competition problems still unsolved

The Government is examining ways to iron out one of the main problems standing in the way of domestic electricity competition, the issue of who takes responsibility for customers when their supplier goes bust. As Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports, the opening of the market is now almost certain to be delayed beyond April.

With less than three months left before the planned introduction of electricity competition, the industry is at loggerheads over who should intervene if a power supplier gets into financial difficulties. The current arrangements for competition allow the industry regulator to take away the operating licence of a supplier, but leaves the onus on customers to sign alternative contracts with new suppliers.

Power companies want new rules in place before competition starts to give the regulator the power to pass existing customer contracts over to a new designated supplier. The Electricity Pool, the wholesale power trading body, has proposed a temporary solution through its existing relationships with regional electricity companies. But in a letter to the industry last month Offer, the electricity watchdog, claimed existing licence provisions were sufficient to deal with the issue.

It emerged last night that the Department of Trade and Industry is in discussions with Offer about the problem and is examining the longerterm possibility of legislation to cover supplier default, along the lines of rules put in place in the gas industry. However any changes recommended by the probe, which forms part of the wider review of utility regulation, would come well beyond the April start date for competition.

Offer will publish a consultation paper on the issue as early as next week in an attempt to dampen the criticism. But Andrew Claxton, the Pool's chief executive, warned that his own proposal was "the only solution currently on the

He said: "People in this industry are saying we don't think this is an acceptable risk to live with. Unless we get some support from Offer this will be difficult to implement." The DTI last night backed Offer's ap-

proach. "We don't believe this is an issue stopping competition, because the regulator has responsibility to ensure suppliers are able to finance their operations," said a spokesman. However Mr Claxton insisted legislation remained the best way out of the dilemma and

said the DTI appeared to be reconsidering the issue. "This has been around for a couple of years and the DTI have previously steadfastly refused to do anything about it. It's very frustrating." It also emerged yesterday that John Bartle,

the Industry Minister, is to meet with electricity chief executives in two week's time and is likely to announce a delay of at least three months to competition.

The meeting, due around 22 January, is the third industry "summit" called by Mr Battle, who has put himself in personal charge of competition. Next week PA Consulting, the group monitoring the process for Offer, will deliver a report which is expected to warn that complex computer systems planned by suppliers will not be ready for April.

The plan was for four companies, Eastern, Seeboard, Manweb and Yorkshire, to begin competition in their regions on time, with other suppliers joining in a phased introduction by September, But Professor Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, admitted last month that competition was "very unlikely" to start on time.

New National Savings customers lose out

New customers of National Savings yesterday forced into the cuts by the money markets. became the latest victims of the fall in longterm interest rates as the interest offered on five-year savings was cut by up to 7 per cent.

New pensioner bonds, which had paid 7 per cent a year, will now pay 6.5 per cent. Children's bonus bonds bought now will pay 6.25 per cent. down from 6.75 per cent. Existing savings are unaffected. The cuts create a highly unusual situation in that savers can now get better interest when they put money away for a shorter period. Whereas pensioner bonds with a 5-year lock-in pay 6.5 per cent. income bonds, repayable on 90 days' notice, pay 7 per cent. National Savings yesterday said it was

Short-term interest rates were up, but longerterm rates had fallen in anticipation of low inflation under a European single currency. Peter Bareau, chief executive of National

Savings, said: "Like other major retail providers, we have had to take action to reduce rates on our medium term products. The present reality for savers is that fixed medium term rates are lower than short term rates." The move mirrors cuts by life insurers in the

amount they pay in bonuses to endowments and pensions. Scottish Lifeyesterday became the fifth office to announce cuts in annual bonuses.

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19/BUSINESS

OUTLOOK ON MAKING INTEREST RATE JUDGEMENTS AND THE CONDITIONS FOR AID IN THE FAR EAST

MPC should err on the side of hawkishness

It gave us a breather this month, but will the Monetary Policy Committee put interest rates up in February instead? Unlike all those analysts in the City who sound utterly certain about whether and when and how much further borrowing costs need to rise to keep inflation on course, the MPC displays a becoming modesty about its ability to see into the future.

We live in challenging times. Diverging patterns in different areas of the economy make it unusually hard to be confident about the rate of growth in the next year. On top of that there is a big crisis taking place in the world economy the consequences of which are impossible to predict. In these circumstances even the best forecasts are almost bound to go awry.

And - as some of the country's most prominent economic forecasters spelt out at an Economic and Social Research Council-sponsored conference in London yesterday - predicting future growth and inflation has to battle against frequent revisions to past data, ignorance about the true structure of the economy and pure bolts from the blue in the shape of unforeseen events. Any claim to certainty is bogus.

So, even without having overheard the MPC's meeting this week, it is easy to sketch out the discussion. On the one hand, the strength of the pound has depressed manufacturing and is starting to squeeze recorded export growth. The contribution from trade to growth will decline sharply, especially against the background of the Asian crisis. This will keep global inflationary pressure weak. To purely domestic monetary considerations, the Bank must also now add its responsibility to join other central banks in helping stabilise the world's financial markets.

On the other hand, spending in the shops and the two-thirds of consumer spending that occurs beyond the high street are displaying strong momentum. Pay settlements are creeping up, with January an important bargaining month. Employment continues to climb and people still have the pleasure of last year's windfalls swelling their bank accounts. The boom may be over, but spending is not about to nosedive.

Weighty evidence is probably required on one side of the balance or the other to justify action on interest rates -whether up or down - but it will always be a question of judgement in the end. For what it's worth, the Committee should for the time being continue to err on the side of hawkishness. The point of having an independent central bank - especially in a historically inflation-prone country like the UK - is to be better safe than sorry. At this stage the risks of an overly lax monetary policy still outweigh the risks of an

overly cautious one. Moreover, policy makers need to be far more concerned nowadays with the precise makeup of what inflationary pressures there are in the economy in making their interest rate decisions. Deflationary pressures in the world economy, and the strong pound, may be disguising a build up of inflationary pressure elsewhere - in wages

Severe wage inflation alongside falling prices for goods and services make a particularly dangerous combination with possibly serious consequences for long term growth and employment. This is the bogeyman the monetary policy committee must most fear. Unfortunately it is not ... at all clear what the Bank's policy response ought to be should such a spectre make an appearance. This is unknown territo-: ry, even for central bankers with long experience of control over interest rates. For the newly independent Bank of England, devising the correct response is going to be of vital importance.

IMF must stick to its guns

The International Monetary Fund has six main purposes, according to its last annual report. Purpose five is defined as "to give confidence to members by making the general resources of the Fund temporarily available to them under adequate safeguards, thus providing them with opportunity to correct maladjustments in ... built Well have the money but no strings their balance of payments without ref

become the main bone of contention with the IMF's record breaking package of support for the Tiger economies of the Par East. Just what is a measure destructive of national prosperity? To many in the Far

wealth and employment, looks like just that. And to what extent does the preservation of international prosperity justify putting up huge amounts of money from the developed world to prop up these semi corrupt economic and political systems?

For members of the Indonesian Govermoent, a measure destructive of national prosperity plainly means most of the conditions the IMF attaches to its support. Indonesia's "denial budget" of a few days back is probably the closest thing the IMP has yet experienced, in recent histery anyway, to a smash and grab raid on its money. Indonesia has already drawn on some of its IMF support. Now it is refusing to go through with most of the IMF's conditional economic reforms and firestening to default on its foreign debt to boot. Meanwhile, the Indonesian budgot has made the various little bits of creative accounting used by the Europeans to squeeze into Maastricht's monetary corset 'look positively benign by

configuration.
President Subarto is calling the IMF's please, he staying. The IMF's response sorting to measures destructive of national vito the estimated many piece of brinkmanor international prosperity... ship the an obvious one - to withIt is this last bit which seems to have dictated counts to his senses. If the IMF sticks to its six defined purposes, that is certainly what it should be doing. The wording gives a little room for debate on this bet not much.

Curriberitore, if the IMF gives way on

corporations, with its consequent loss of Indonesia, it will have to loosen its conditions for all the others too. Thailand and Malaysia certainly won't be prepared to play ball. The big daddy of the region's stricken economies, South Korea, will also be looking for big concessions. Unfortunately, it is not at all clear that intransigence is actually what the response is going to be. The crisis in the Far East is beginning to move from the economic to the political and in doing so the IMF may be forced to become overtly what it perhaps always has been covertly - a tool of US for-

We seem fast to be approaching territory where IMF meets CIA. Investment bankers are taking over where the spooks left off, quite literally apparently, for Wall Street bankers are now more common visitors to the Whitehouse's Situation Room than US foreign policy advisers. Maps and satellite spy pictures have been replaced with flip charts, budgetry projections and capital flow diagrams.

As economic crisis degenerates into civil unrest, as it looks unnervingly likely to in Indonesia, the IMF's resolve and worthy purposes are going to be tested to their limits. Is it going to stick to its guns and use its money to drive through the economic reforms the region so desperately needs? Or is it going to chicken out and in the interests of short-term national and international prosperity, pay up regardless? This always looked like being an interested year economically; the political and social implications of what's happening may be more far reaching still.

Indonesia plunges deeper into crisis as 'Alice approach' defies IMF terms

Indonesia was left reeling vesterday as the financial markets plunged sharply for the third day running while fears were growing about President Suharto's political future. Stephen Vines, in the capital Jakarta can see no end to the crisis while the Government continues to defy the demands from the International Monetary Fund for tough action.

Yesterday the local currency spiralled into free fall, plunging at one point by 25 per cent before ending the day down 18 per cent. This contributed to a fall which has wiped around one-third off the rupiah's value in the space of just three days.

The stock market moved almost in tandem, with share prices dropping by 18 per cent at a low in yesterday's trading before recovering at the close with prices down by 11.5 per cent.

The country is awash with rumours about the situation. The army is on alert to crack down on signs of social unrest. Shoppers, fearful of stagflation have besieged stores using up their money before it looses any more of its value. Meanwhile, the government is showing few signs of having any idea of what to do about the economic meltdown. Following hard on the heels of Tuesday's budget, which was widely viewed as lacking in realism, the central bank yesterday dismissed the currency fall as no more than a temporary phenomenon.

This "Alice in Wonderland" approach, which includes an unwillingness to implement the terms of the International Monctary Fund (IMF) package agreed less than three months ago, could result in a drying up of the funds from the rescue package. The IMF is meeting in Washington although Korea, rather than Indonesia, is

on the agenda. When the Indonesian markets opened yesterday they were painfully aware of a warning from Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, about the need for Indonesia to show its commitment to reforms agreed with the IMF. The next disbursement of the IMF bail-out, totalling \$3bn, is due to be delivered in mid-March. It is now questionable whether the IMF will be prepared to hand over the money.

This concern yesterday led Fitch IBCA, the credit agency, to downgrade Indonesia's long-term foreign currency, saying the tabling of unrealistic budget proposals which publicly flout recently agreed targets with the IMF is a severe blow to confidence in Indonesia's willingness to maintain appropriate economic policies".

In addition, Fitch IBCA said the deteriorating economic situation raised political stresses within Indonesia, since the Suharto regime has drawn much of its legitimacy from economic success. Other factors included the fact that export earnings would be hit by recent falls in oil prices. while the banking sector could be affected as the plunging currency put pressure on the country's corporate sector.

The ripple effects of the Indonesian crisis have so far had the greatest impact on neighbouring Singapore, which has close economic ties with Indonesia. Yesterday share prices in Singapore fell by 7 per cent, taking the Straits Times industrials index to its lowest point since 1991.

Indonesian contagion were high, particularly in Hong Kong, which seems poised to raise interest rates at a bankers' meeting today. Fears of a rate rise sent the Hang Seng Index down by almost 3 per cent in a day of heavy and volatile

As Hong Kong share prices tumbled, the uncertainty over the fate of Peregrine Investment Holdings was prolonged. Hong Kong based Peregrine, one of Asia's fastest growing finance conglomerates, admitted that Zurich Centre Invesiment's agreement to take a 24 per cent stake in Peregrine was being renegotiated. An announcement on the fate of the deal has been delayed until today. This increased speculation about the extent of Peregrine's problems and its ability to secure outside investors to sustain its business.

Elsewhere in the region the news was hardly brighter. Although in Korea both the stock market and the local currency showed timid signs of recovery on hopes that the nation's massive debts would be rolled over, providing a badly needed breathing space.

Even if the debts were rolled over in Korea and other countries, including Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, which are under IMF-imposed austerity programmes, this would not solve the underlying problems which brought their financial systems to their knees.

An economist from a European bank based in Hong Kong said: "There's no confidence out there. These people don't trust their own currencies and there's no reason for them to do so."

Casting around for ways of stabilising Asian currencies, many local analysts have urged their governments to look at the possibility of establishing currency boards, similar to that which operates in Hong Kong. Currency boards establish a fixed parity, usually with the US dollar and maintain that parity through squeezing liquidity out of the market at times of high activity and manipulating interest rates to support their currencies rather than defending them by buying back their own currencies in foreign exchange markets.

The priority, as seen by the decision makers at the IMF, is to ensure that banks are repaid. Governments have different priorities; in Asia they are caught between a rock and a hard place. Every exit route is marked with a variety of hard

Last night Lee Kyung-Shik, governor of the Bank of Korea, called for a rollover of the country's short-term debt, with repayment delayed. Speaking after meetings with representatives of the Bank of England and Bank of France, he said South Korea has asked for a "delay, not a conversion" of its debt. Some creditors have been seeking conversion of the debt to

How Asia's economic meltdown affects UK projects



Big schemes threatened but holidays are cheaper

Trade officials yesterday warned UK companies that more highprofile transport and

infrastructure projects in the Pacific Rim could be in jeopardy as the currency crisis gripping the region continued to deepen.

However, holidaymakers and shoppers can look forward to a bonanza thanks to the devaluation in the Tiger economies. Michael Harrison and Andrew Yates report on the winners and losers from the Asian economic meltdown.

A number of prestige projects have already been postponed in the area. Indonesia has scrapped 80 projects including a new airport on the holiday island of Lumbok. Malaysia has deferred the Bakun dam, and the Hopewell Mass Rapid Transport rail system in Bangkok has been put on ice along with a new international airport.

The Department of Trade and Industry is now advising UK contractors and exporters to approach the region with a great deal more caution. A promotional video launched by the previous President of the Board of Trade, lan Lang trumpeting the Tiger economics as the "Lands of Opportunity" is being

remixed with a much more sober voice-over. "We remain confident of the region in the medium term but the crystal ball is certainly looking a lot murkier in the short term." said one senior UK trade official. "There is no sign at the moment of default to any significant extent but we can't be sure of what is in the pipeline as people are only just beginning to realise the seriousness of it. You cannot rule out contracts being reneged on

or projects curtailed as the crisis deepens." Despite retrenching on many of their overseas investments, the South Koreans are pressing ahead with major domestic projects like the £2.8bn Inchon airport and the Seoul-Pusan high speed rail link on which GEC-Alsthom is a contractor.

British Aerospace, which has a controversial £160m order to supply Indonesia with 16 Hawk trainer aircraft, said beginning on the order and there were no indications of any problems. The Association of Consulting Engi-

neers said that the Asia Pacific region was by far the biggest growth area with the total value of contracts rising by 52 per cent to £52bn in 1996. The consulting engineer Ove Arup, one of the biggest firms operating in the area, said there was less work in the pipeline now. "The level of private work, like factories and offices is faltering but infrastructure projects that are publicly funded are going ahead," said Olivia Wheaton of Ove Arup's business development department.

There are no such worries for holidaymakers, who are jetting off to the region in their droves to take advantage of increased spending power. All the major tour operators are seeing a rise in the number of customers wanting to take an exotic trip to Thailand or bask on the beach in Bali.

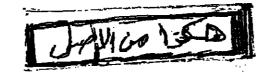
'We are very pleased with Far East bookings at the moment. We have seen a big increase in the number of passengers

deliveries had not yet started but work was months," said a spokeswoman from First Choice, one of the country's largest tour, operators. "Holiday makers are waking up to the fact that they are going to get a deal once they get there."

A spokeswoman from Kuoni said: "The Far East has been better value than ever before." It is not just cheaper prices of local food and drinks which are attracting hundreds of holiday makers. Tour operators have been able to secure cheaper hotels and flights, bringing down the price of many package deals. The currency turnoil could also prompt tour operators like Thomson to buy rivals in the Far East.

Meanwhile shoppers could see prices of microwaves, CD players and white goods manufactured in the region tumble, according to economists and retail experts.

"I think prices are almost bound to fail," said Martin Weale, director of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research. "In South Korea, the value of the currency has almost halved in the last year. How much this will filter through to the shops we don't know but it would be exbooking for the Far East in the last few traordinary if none of it did."



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No quick fix for housebuilders

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

What is wrong with housebuilders? Here's a sector that generated doubledigit earnings growth last year, and is widely expected to repeat the trick in the coming year. Yet investors, who normally love a good growth story, continue to value the majority of the construction sector at a level normally reserved for the most bombed-out conglomerates. In the past 12 months, the sector has underperformed the rest of the stock market by almost a fifth.

A good example is Abbey, the tiny Anglo-Irish housebuilder, which yesterday reported that interim profits more than doubled to IR£7.56m. In the coming year it hopes to build 800 houses - double the number of sales it completed in 1997. Yet, despite a good run, this kind of growth stock languishes on a forward p/e ratio of no more than 10.

The reason, of course, is that nobody expects the growth to last. Investors hadly burned their fingers on housebuilding stocks in the last recession and, to a lesser extent, in 1995. The widely held belief is that the current boom will inevitably crumble as higher land prices squeeze margins at the same time as rising interest rates dampen demand. Evidence of a shortage of skilled brickies and a sharp increase in wage costs hasn't helped investors' confidence.

Paradoxically, then, a slowdown in the housing market could ease fears of an unsustainable boom and prove to be good news for housebuilding shares. Yesterday's statistics, which showed that housing starts in November were flat on the same month in 1996, support the view that as many houses will be built in the coming year as in 1997. Some even think starts may fall slightly. Land price and wage inflation, meanwhile, are not much of a worry outside

a few hot spots in the South-east. All this, combined with house price inflation in the coming year of about 5 per cent, amounts to a gentle slowdown. Of course, margins will sbrink slightly as the particularly cheap land prices of a few years ago work their way through the system. This can hardly be called a bust. But housebuilding shares are discounting a much sharper fall in margins. These fears look overdone.

So housebuilding shares are cheap.

Abbey: At a glance

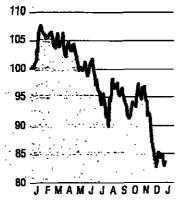
THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Market value: £102.6m, share price 265p (+25p)

Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (IR£m)	38.8	47.4	50.4	45.0	61.8
Pre-tax profits (IA£m)	2.65	8.14	8.37	6.22	9.10
Earnings per share (IRp)	4.06	14.52	15.08	11.17	15.76
Dividends per share (IRp)	2.0	5.0	5.3	5.5	6.8

Share price

Construction sector against the market



however, scutiment is unlikely to turn. And another round of consolidation is unlikely while depressed share prices rule out anything but a cash-funded bid. At some point, the housebuilding sector will come good. Just don't expect it to happen any time soon.

Hi-Tec Sports runs into form

For a company that seemed to be in continual crisis until a couple of years ago. Hi-Tec Sports appears to have finally got its act together. The sports shoe company which famously lost a finance director after just eight hours in the job in 1995, has been in and out of the red since then. But under Paul Harrison, chief executive, it now looks on more financial turmoil in the Far East. solid foundations.

Sales are static but the real growth has come from margins which have risen from 30.7 per cent to 32.7 per cent. This growth has boosted profits by one-third While interest rates are on the rise, to £1.2m in the six months to October. has been in place for only a year.

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Margins have been driven by a shift in trends away from "commodity" white trainers where the markets are domiso-called "brown" shoes. These are the suede or soft-leather shoes used for hiking and rambling and which command much higher margins. More efficient production methods have also helped.

Hi-Tec is doing well in the US, where it is a strong brand name in brown shoes. Profits there trebled to £1.5m on sales up by 11 per cent. The UK market was has to compete as a lower-priced alternative to Nike et al. Profits rose slightly.

boosted again by the brown-shoe market. The trouble spots for Hi-Tec have been continental Europe, where profits were ravaged by the strong pound and weak economies. And its rest-of-the-world division has also suffered, due in part to the

Looking ahead, Hi-Tec will have to start growing sales soon as the margin improvements cannot last forever. But there remains scope for growth, particularly in the US, where new management

£1499

On Greig Middleton's full-year forecast of £4m the shares - up a penny to 47.5p yesterday - trade on a forward rating of just 8. Hi-Tec operates in such a cut-throat market that dangers always lie in wait but there could be some upside.

Hire is healthy for **Goode Durrant**

Van-hire specialist Goode Durrant is motoring along in the fast lane thanks to a buoyant economy and strong growth from acquisitions and new depot openings. After disposing of several peripheral businesses it bas returned to profit and has achieved strong earnings growth over the last few years.

In the six months to October profit rose 14 per cent to £17.4m thanks to a rise in its fleet, which grew from 16,000 to 20,000 in the last eight months of 1997.

Half of that rise came from opening new depots at Milton Keynes and Cardiff and the rest from the acquisition of TDG. its smaller rival. The deal has slowed earnings growth in the first half and dampened margins but should bring longerterm benefits.

One worry is that acquisitions pushed interest charges up 70 per cent nated by Reebok, Nike and Adidas to to £4.8m in the first half, but interest cover is still a healthy 4.6 times. Hire charges are holding steady and the cost of new vehicles has been edging down, which is good news for Goode Durrant, Ravenstock Tam, the equipment hire division, is also doing well, with profits up a fifth to £1.6m.

This is a competitive industry in which the Americans are becoming big difficult in white trainers because Hi-Tec players, but Goode Durrant's 9 per cent market share makes it one of the major operators. The growing trend for companies to outsource transport needs should help maintain demand even if the economy as a whole begins to slow this year.

Analysts are expecting full year profits to reach £30m. rising to £35.4m and 41.4p a share in 1998-99. The shares edged up 5p to 500p yesterday which rates them on an undemanding 13.6 times this year's earnings and just 12 times next year's earnings. Even after a great run they still look

Granada stands firm on extra payouts to directors

Granada, the media and hotels group, insisted yesterday that it would stand firm against investor anger over its decision to pay £374,000 in compensation to

As the row intensified, one institution suggested that the wealthiest members of the board should give the money to charity. Nigel Cope, City

Correspondent reports-

directors for shortening

their service contracts.

Granada said yesterday that it had not received a single complaint from investors about the payments, which were revealed in the group's annual report. We pride ourselves on our investor relations and if any fund managers would like further details we would be delighted to meet them."

However, several investors do plan to register complaints over the payments, which they regard as unnecessary and "grubby" - the sort of thing

panies" rather than a blue chip name like Granada.

One senior fund manager. who asked not to be named, suggested that the senior directors such as the chairman. Gerry Robinson, should give their payments to charity. "I would have thought a suitable charity could be found to remove this stain on the com-

pany's character." The company refused to comment on this possibility. saying it was a matter that should be discussed directly between the company and the institution.

The fund manager added: "We don't like this issue at all. It sends out all the wrong signals and we will take it up with the company to learn more. These guys are extremely well paid these days and receive all sorts of fringe benefits not available to mere mortals. And yet they are grubbing around for the last. ha'penny. I would have thought Gerry Robinson would have risen above it but obviously not."

The payments were made in return for shortening the directors' notice periods in the event of takeover from three years to two. Each payment was associated with "scruffy com- the equivalent to two months

salary. This means that Mr Robinson was paid £138,334 and chief executive Charles Allen got £110, 000: Three other directors were paid sums between £35,000 and £52,000. The payments means that Gerry Robinson received more than £1m last year. His salary and bonus payments amounted to £857,000 and he received a

pensions payment of £53,000. Institutions only discovered the payments in the annual report, which was posted just before Christmas. As changes to directors' service contracts are not required to be voted upon at an annual meeting they have had no say in the matter.

Granada remains adamant that it has done nothing wrong. It said: "The remuneration committee felt that the value of the contracts had been eroded and felt that the management should be compensated."

Some institutions have remained sanguine over the issue. "We are not getting too exercised about it," one said. "It is a matter for the remuneration committee." Granada said it had no plans for formal meetings with investors to explain the issue but would be happy to arrange briefings if requested.

Allied Textiles shares surge on bid talks

33 per cent yesterday after the group disclosed it was in bid talks with an un-named group that includes some of the company's directors.

The company, which makes yarn, fabrics and carpets through various subsidiaries, made the announcement as it said pre-tax profits for the year to the end of September rose to £16.3m from £15.9m in the previous 12 months.

The possible bid follows a profit warning in November, when the company's announcement that it had discovered financial irregularities sent its share price tumbling

strong pound continues to hamper exports.

Peter Morrison, an analyst at

Granville Davies, said the company could sell for between 175p and 180p a share, valuing it at around £125m. The shares closed today at 165.5p, a gain of 41.5p. "If the management were to

get it for much less than that I would have thought shareholders were capitulating quite weakly," he said. The company enjoyed a good market position in the UK and "quite a nice position" in North America.

The company said it had set

Shares in Allied Textiles surged 18 per cent, and comes as the and had appointed Credit Suisse First Boston as its adviser.

Allied said its sales rose to £231.7m from £227m as earnings per share rose to 16.6p from 16.3p. The company continues to trade well and we look forward to additional production capacity coming on stream during the current financial year. We are anticipating that the current year's outcome will be satisfactory."

Allied said last autumn that "serious accounting irregularities" worth about £2.8m would cut 1997 profit, prompting its shares to fall 18 per cent. But for those difficulties it would up a committee of independent have exceeded market foredirectors to consider the offer, casts of £19m in pre-tax profit.

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Watmoughs puts second stage of defence in motion

company which is fighting off a £l88m hostile bid from Canadian rival Quebecor, becor's international division. launched the second stage of its defence yesterday by emphasising its growth potential and hinting that 1997 profits would be better than expected. Peter Thal Larsen reports on latest salvoes

in the second document posted to shareholders since Quebecor announced its bid in December. Watmoughs pointed to the like the increase in newspaper supplements and the rise of supermarket loyalty magazines. healthy growth prospects for its

in the continuing battle.

dropped a strong hint that profits for the year to last December would be stronger than previously expected. Watmoughs is expected to publish a profit forecast as part of its final bid defence, which is due next week.

However, Quebecor immediately hit back by stressing Watmoughs' dismal recent profit and share price performance. "If they can only achieve a halving of the share price in such favourable conditions, what will

Watmoughs, the printing they achieve in the more difficult markets of today and tomorrow?" asked Charles Cavell, President and Chief Operating Officer of Que-

> Watmoughs' share price was unchanged at 279.5p - a 22.5p premium to the value of Quebecor's cash offer - suggesting that investors think the predator will have to raise its bid in order to win. Most observers argue that the current bid undervalues Watmoughs.

"It's round one to Watmoughs," said Henderson Crosthwaite analyst Louise Barton. "Whatever valuation you use the current bid is too low." Nevertheless, few observers

expect Watmoughs to retain its independence. They point to strong growth in its markets in management succession probrecent years, fuelled by factors lems - long-serving chief executive Patrick Walker returned to the job from semi-retirement last year when his successor re-The group also painted a rosy pic-signed, and he has already anture of its future, pointing to the nounced his intention to step down after two years. As a reoperations in Spain and Hungary. sult, Watmoughs shareholders Meanwhile, Watmoughs are thought to be reluctant to wholly reject a bid. Analysts suggest an increased offer of around 300p a share would be enough for victory.

What's more, Quebecor's options are limited. Although the group says it plans to build a UK business from scratch if it does not secure Watmoughs, observers dismiss the suggestion that it would invest in expensive printing equipment before it had won any clients.

"That idea is completely barmy," said one.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Abbey (I)	1R39 Sm (28 9m)	187.6m (3.6m)	IR13.1p (8.2p)	183 Dp (-)
Affied Text(to (F)	231 7m (227 0m)	16 3m (15.9m)	16.6p (16.3p)	8.45p (7.8p)
Coda Group (F)	41.2m (33.9m)	-1.8m (-4 9m)	-7 4p (-18.8p)	ď
Goode Derrent (I)	95.5m (70.2m)	17.4m (15.2m)	21 7p (18.5p)	3.8p (3.2p)
Helton Holdings (I)	IR84.2m (71.8m)	iR5.7m (4.7m)	IR8 2p (6.5¢)	2.1p (1.7p)
Hi-Tec Sports (1)	84.2m (71.8m)	1.2m (0.921m)	1.8p (1.1p)	0.6p (nill)
Howard Holdings (I)	1.8m (2.6m)	0.143m (0.186m)	Q 4p (0.5p)	0.2p
TICO Heldings (F)	55.6m (48 3m)	1.2m (1.3m)	7.7p (8.6p)	16.0p (18.0p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interior	† FPS is nowerden	tionale "Divintend to	he natel as a Fil	· ·

GEC to raise more than £100m from sales

GEC, the UK defence engineering group in the throes of a shake-up, will raise more than £100m through the sale of a number of business units from its industrial group, it said vesterday. The sales were part of a divestment programme flagged by managing director George Simpson in July 1997.

Agreements have been signed with buyers for distribution and trading operations in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. The Australia and New Zealand distribution and trading units will be sold to Rexel SA, the world's largest electrical equipment distributor. The sale of the Ireland distribution and trading unit to Olive Holdings, a company under common control with Edmundson Electrical, is conditional upon the approval of the Irish Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment

Babcock wins £30m refit

Defence engineering company Babcock International Group has been awarded a £30m contract from the Ministry of Defence to refit the type 42 destroyer HMS Southampton at Rosyth. The company said work would start on 12 January and would last until the spring of 1999.

BAe and Saab link up

British Aerospace and Saab yesterday unveiled a business partnership based around their bid to supply the South African government with Gripen fighter aircraft. The Gripen proposal is part of a larger defence package being negotiated by the UK Government in response to the South African defence ministry request for tenders to supply fighters, Corvette warships and battle tanks. It will be several months before South Africa makes a decision but the deals could benefit GEC, GKN and Vickers.

Power station deal

National Power yesterday confirmed that it had been granted exclusive negotiating rights to develop a \$1.5bn coalfired power station in Zimbabwe, the generator's first big investment in Africa. The group said it would invest up to \$400m in the project, which includes the mining giant RTZ, giving it a controlling stake of between 60 per cent and 80 per cent. The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority would own a further 20 per cent of the venture.

Lucas buys in Brazil

Lucas Varity, industrial component maker, confirmed yesterday it had paid £70m in cash for all the shares in Brazilian brake maker Freios Varga it did not already own, Lucas Varity already held 34 per cent of Freios Varga and had been in talks with the firm since October to raise its stake. Freios Varga is South America's largest brakes manufacturer, with sales for the nine months to September 1997 of £149m.

Rolls-Royce sales climb

Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars climbed 10 per cent in 1997, the fourth year in a row it has achieved growth, parent company Vickers said today. The figures came as a bid for Rolls-Royce Cars by a group of enthusiasts who want to prevent the luxury brands falling into the hands of BMW, was expected to be announced. Vickers said a total of 1,918 Rolls-Royces and Bentleys were sold, compared with 1,744 in 1996. The strongest demand came from the UK, with turnover jumping 38 per cent.

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tion deal

BG hits new peak amid hopes of further cash handouts

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

stories of further cash handswirled around the stock market. The shares climbed 13.75p to 305p, a new peak.

Trading was heavy with the order-driven system accounting for around one third of the near 19 million turnover.

The former British Gas astonished many observers when it geared up to return £1.3bn to its investors through the "B" share route last year.

The subsequent disposal programme is running ahead of estimates. It is now expected to realise comfortably more than £1bn, perhaps even £1.5bn, from asset sales by the middle of the year compared with earlier expectations of a

few hundred million pounds. The BG sales bandwagon has alerted the market to the possibly that the group will find uself with so much surplus cash it will feel obliged to return

The group, now largely an oil and gas explorer and producer, saw analysts from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell who reiterated their buy rec- American investors displayed ommendation, Other analysts

are keen on the stock. Last year BG was one of due today. the best performing blue chips. At one time the shares

There is persistent speculation that its growing oil and gas interests are making it increasingly attractive to the oil the frame is Shell, little were firm. changed at 420.5p.

also in form, gaining 2.75p to 93.75p, reflecting the resolution of the last of its North Sea

take and pay deals. For much of the session the

Worries about the Far East, particularly Indonesia, arose as New York put on a shaky performance during London hours.

Besides the tiger economies their usual sensitivity over the highly volatile payroll figures.

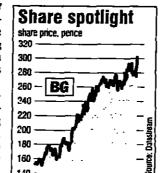
Unchanged domestic interest rates came as no surbumped along at around 150p. prise. The 72.3 points early Footsie gain was largely in anticipation of a standstill. At the close the index was clinging rather uncertainly to a 13 gain goliaths. The current name in at 5,237.1. Supporting shares Retailers were more posi-

Centrica, the gas operation tive as trading reports sugsplit from BG in February, was gested the festive shopping spree was rather better than earlier indications. Even so there remains a nagging worry

that one or two nasties lurk. Upbeat comments from

BG stepped on the gas as value to shareholders although market was in ebullient form: jeweller Signet created a 3.5p BZW warning that profit down-display is due to a simple there is a sneaking feeling it trading was busy with turnover sparkle to 33.25p; Majestic gradings could be on the way outs and takeover action will adopt the share buy-back easily exceeding 1 billion shares. Wine, with takeover gossip mingling with trading 585p. Nikko, however, reprogress, bubbled 20p higher to 421.5p. Two yet to report, Next and Dixons, attracted buyers. Next gained 20p to

725p; Dixons 10p to 587p. British Aerospace, planning to cut its 21 per cent stake in the Orange mobile telephone group, rose 24p to 1,790p. A



lowered British Airways 18p to mains bullish, suggesting the shares are worth buying.

Securicor collected another buy circular, this time from ABN Amro Hoare Govett. The shares climbed 11.5p to 325p with Hoare suggesting a 400p target, NatWest Securities and SBC Warburg helped

BT 11p higher to 500.5p. British Petroleum's recovery continued with a 12p gain to 790p. Morgan Stanley reckons the shares should go to 875p.

Somerfield had another run. The supermarket chain, which struggled to get its flotation away in 1996, rose 11p to a 230.5p

catching-up process but in the present fevered atmosphere in the industry there is, inevitably, the suggestion that it could be a bid target.

One idea is that Asda could switch its ambitions to Somerfield if it has to abandon its pursuit of Safeway, up 7.5p to 353p. Asda slipped 3.75p to 182p.

Scotia caused a little excitement among the biotechs with the Swedish launch of its weight loss product. The shares hardened 22.5p to 325p. ML Laboratories, in the biotech sickbay, gained 9p to 99p. The shares once

touched 468.75p. Allied Textiles, the latest second-liner to provoke bid

dry cleaning chains to concentrate on business services. A spokesman refused to say whether talks are onder way. South Country Homes, a

TAKING STOCK Disposal rumours lifted

Sketchley. The shares rose

6p to 46p with 7 million of

said it intends to sell its

SupaSuape and Sketchley

them traded. The group has

residential property minnow, jumped 13.5p to 48.5p. One story is that Sandy Anderson, the former Porterbrook leasing group chief, has built a 27 per cent stake. Whether Richard Grogan still has 28 per cent is unclear.

Stephen ...pp in ...gement huythought to 1. interest in this services and m. stationery group. shaded to 67.5p after the signalled bidder moved in with a £28.2m strike. Share Price Data Price One Vid Pric Code ### Price Data Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is market price is Share Price Data Price are in string exten where stored. The price is character of the string is price in this services and m. The price Data Pric more than alcs (30m refit) A deal (30m r

that will hit the

Chancelior's desk over

the next two months.

In its annual Budget represen-

tation, the Construction Con-

federation warned that the

recovery in the industry re-

mained patchy with growth like-

ly to slow next year unless action

was taken to stimulate demand.

the Chancellor to channel more

capital receipts into the PFI to

generate work where there was

spare capacity and restore the

cuts in training funds for 18- to

24-year-olds to boister the

in VAT on renovations and

housing alterations, an exten-

sion of capital allowances to all

commercial buildings, and a

Ian Deslandes, the confed-

review of Capital Gains Tax.

It also called for a reduction

industry's skills base.

The confederation urged

Construction leaders looking to Brown for a lift from the Budget

Building industry leaders eration's chief executive, said: "Whilst continuing growth in yesterday called on construction output is expect-Gordon Brown, the ed in 1998 and 1999, the latest Chancellor of the forecasts suggest that growth Exchequer, to use this will be slower than previously anticipated. This is disturbing year's Budget to expand given the clear need for the Private Finance improvements to the nation's Initiative and training environment." programmes and abolish He added that, in light of the the landfill tax. marked differences in output between different regions of the Michael Harrison looks at country and even different the first of the many firms operating in the same business submissions

area, it was essential that the Budget did not jeopardise what remained a patchy recovery. Calling for a review of the landfill tax, the confederation argued that it had not worked in the way intended and had triggered a 75 per cent increase in fly-tipping. The confederation represents an industry accounting for more than 5 per

cent of national output and

employing 1.4 million people. The confederation's latest trade survey revealed a marked slowdown in output in the third quarter of last year. The survey reported a balance of 14 per cent of companies reporting higher growth between July and September - down on the level in the previous quarter. Housing output in the public sector fell by 2 per cent during the quarter compared with a

public sector construction pro-

jects fell by 19 per cent com-



The Construction Confederation warned that the recovery in the industry remained patchy with growth likely to slow next year unless action was taken to stimulate demand

pared with the same period a year earlier.

Figures published yesterday by the Government show that housebuilding remains static. with 14.000 new starts in Noyear ago while output in new vember 1997 - the same as a year ago. Mcanwhile, the num-

fell from 15,700 to 15,200.

The confederation said business optimism remained buoyant over the next 12 months with 54 per cent of firms projecting higher growth. But this masks wide regional variations with

ber of new homes completed Scotland, for instance, expected to continue falling deeply.

A balance of 26 per cent of companies expect to take on more labour but an increasing number are reporting skills shortages - hence the call for more training programmes.

British Aerospace aiming to sell part of £630m stake in Orange

sell part of its £630m stake in Orange, the UK's third largest mobile phone network.

It emerged that new provisions in Orange's banking covenants allow British Aerospace, which owns 21 per cent of the operator, to sell a much bigger chunk of its sharehold-

Foreign Exchange Rates

when Orange refinanced its borrowings with a £1.75bn debt

Under the new financing deal, BAe could sell all of its stake in Orange, as long as 1 per cent of the shareholding was bought by Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong congloming than previosuly permitted. erate which owns 49 per cent

British Aerospace is seeking to The change came last month of the mobile group. The covenants allow the two investors to cut their stake to 50 per cent, compared with the minimum shareholding of 62.5 per cent in the previous fi-

nancing arrangements. The news boosted BAe's shares, which jumped 24p yesterday, to £17.90. Orange shares also rose 0.5p to 251p.

Interest Rates

BAe confirmed it intended to cut its stake in Orange. worth £630m, but denied speculation that it wanted to sell its entire investment. "Over time we want to drift down to a stake which would be a shade under 20 per cent. But we've got no plans at this stage to

reduce our holding," said a

Hutchison bought a mobile company from BAe in 1991, leaving the defence and aerospace group with 30 per cent of the business which eventually became Orange. BAe's shareholding was reduced to 21 per cent when the mobile operator floated on the stock market in 1996.

Liffe Financial Futures

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



Congratulations to Phillip Bassett, former industrial editor of The Times, who this week moved into Number 10 to help launch a new strategic communications unit for the Government.

The high powered unit, consisting of half a dozen special advisers and civil servants, is due to be officially unveiled next week and will answer directly to Tony Blair.

The Mountfield Report published last November recommended that the Government Information Service should set up a body to communicate ideas and strategy across the whole of government, and Mr Bassett's new unit is the result.

Mr Bassett is already well known as a cheerleader for New Labour. His wife Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean speaks on behalf of Labour in the Lords as Undersecretary of State at the Foreign Office.

Which reminds me that almost exactly two vears ago Mr Bassett was the cause of a spat in the House of Commons between Michael Portillo and Harriet Harman.

Mr Portillo, then Employment Secretary, flourished a fax of an article Mr Barrett had written for The Times, not yet published, which predicted that Mr Portillo was about to introduce a more emollient method of measuring unemployment. Mr Portillo alleged that clearing articles with Labour was Mr Bassett's habit, quoting a note from him on the fax: "I'd be grateful if you could keep this under your

An indignant Ms Harman said that the piece was an exclusive sent so that she could make a comment for publication. Mr Portillo drily regretted that he did not receive the same service. He had got his hands on the fax because Mr Bassett had sent it to Philip Oppenheim, the Employment Minister, by

Industrial Metals

I trust Mr Bassett won't make any similar

mistakes in Number 10. Mr Campbell would have his head on a spike.

Dr Alan Gillespie, a managing director of Goldman Sachs International in London, is to head up the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board (IDB).

The work will involve two days a week for Dr Gillespie, a native of Northern Ireland, who is based in Goldman's investment banking services division, dealing with client relationships. He recently worked on the BAT merger with

Described by a colleague as a "genial golf fanatic," Dr Gillespie joined Goldman in 1986 after 10 years with Citicorp.

Speaking yesterday, Dr Gillespie emphasised that economic and political development in Northern Ireland walked hand in hand: "Right now, and in the light of events which have occurred in recent days, it is essential that all political, community and business leaders engage with each other. They should do so with urgency and a commitment that the political process should be advanced by exclusively peaceful means."

Nestle, the Swiss based confectionery company, said yesterday that it deeply regretted the death on Wednesday of David Harris, former chairman and chief executive of Nestle UK, after a fight against cancer which began in the late summer of 1996.

Mr Harris headed the UK subsidiary until last September when he asked to step down. Peter Blackburn, current chairman and chief executive of Nestle UK, said yesterday: "We would like to record the company's deep appreciation of the contribution which David has made over almost 35 years."

Lightly Later po

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THE PROJUCESS IN

TORREST.

era World

Mr Harris joined Nestle in 1963 and was heavily involved in the coffee side of the business in the 1970s and 1980s, and helped bed down the acquisition of Rowntree. He attained the top job in February 1996.

The Government could be forced to rename its individual savings account (ISA) or face the anger of British Muslims, according to Financial Adviser magazine.

Some Muslims are concerned that the acronym ISA has an identical pronunciation to Issa, the Koranic name for Jesus, whom Islam reveres as a prophet.

Under Islamic law using an ISA would be prohibited anyway, since usury is forbidden. The Muslim parliament in Britain has made representations to the Treasury, which says that "people are entitled to put forward their

views in line with the consultation process." The consultation process for ISAs ends on

There will soon be over 3,000 people in this country who have lived in three centuries, according to the actuarial profession. Not many people know that.

Austria 20554 2069 20550 12815 12812 12808 7048 12809 14313 14299 14279 12816 1281	Discount 550% Discount 450% 10-d Repo 4.75% Switzerland Discount 100% Sweden 3.50% Repo(Ave) 4.35% Lombard 3.00%	Japan Govf Bd Mar-98 90.24 190.26 130.5 1200 3 Mth Sterling Mar-98 92.47 92.48 92.43 230.88 146.449 Jun-98 92.62 92.84 92.57 23177 117847 3 Mth Euromark Mar-98 96.29 96.30 96.24 692.00 369038 3 Mth Euromark Mar-98 94.61 94.63 94.59 83.01 196.27 3 Mth Euroira Mar-98 94.61 94.63 94.59 83.01 196.27 3 Mth Euroira Mar-98 94.61 94.63 94.59 83.01 196.27 3 Mth Euroira Mar-98 95.55 95.36 95.31 16382 13374 3 Mth Euroira Mar-98 96.44 98.46 98.38 278.27 755.02 3 Mth ECU Mar-98 96.29 98.31 98.23 794.3 33.952 3 Mth ECU Mar-98 96.61 95.62 95.57 196 95.4 Mar-98 96.52 96.63 95.58 617 6394 FTSE 100 Dec 98 503850 562 95.57 196 95.4 Mar-98 96.52 95.63 95.58 617 6394 FTSE 100 Dec 98 503850 562 95.57 196 95.4 Mar-98 96.52 95.63 95.58 617 6394 FTSE 100 Dec 98 503850 562 95.57 196 95.4 Series Call Imp Vol Imp Vol Call Put Call Put Call Put Call Put Series Call Imp Vol Imp Vol Call Put Call Put Call Put Call Put S62 133 5250 291 26 226 26	Lead
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23/SPORT



The toughness of the long-distance swimmer

Graeme Smith must be mad, or a masochist, or both. The long-distance swimmer earned his Olympic 1500 metres bronze medal by dint of ferociously hard work, and more of the same has made him one of Britain's best hopes for success in Perth at the World Championships. Guy Hodgson spoke to him.

How many 50-metre lengths could you swim before mindnumbing boredom, never mind tiredness, set in? Twenty, perhaps 30 on a good day. Graeme Smith ploughed up and down Stockport Metro's pool 2,180 times a few weeks ago. 109,000 metres in the space of a week.

All world-class swimmers pound at the pool for hour after at Atlanta? hour, but Smith has to endure

equivalent of the marathon. Throw in weightlifting sessions and you get an idea of the punishment he inflicts on himself.

Not without reward, though. Smith won a bronze medal in the 1,500 metres at the Atlanta Olympics and, at 21, is the right age to be among Britain's best hopes of turning the currency into gold in Sydney in two years' time. It is not beyond the realms of possibility, either, that he might arrive at the 2000 Games as the world champion courtesy of his work in Perth next week.

The World Championships began on Wednesday - though the swimming programme itself does not start until Monday-and Smith and Paul Palmer, the two medallists in Atlanta, remain the country's bright prospects. Ah, Palmer, I can hear you thinking, I remember him, but Smith? Wasn't she the Irishwoman who won all those golds

record books do not show it, the Scottish swimmer was not far away from becoming a gold medallist. He thought he would be when he entered the pool for the final in Atlanta and he still

believes he should be now. "People ask me if I was happy with the bronze and looking back I suppose I am. I'm proud that I was among only 15 or 16 Britons who got a medal but at the time I was gutted. My friends told me I looked like I was going to hit Sharron Davies when she interviewed me for the BBC

"It was only when I got back to Manchester Airport arrivals lounge and all my friends started cheering that it struck me that I'd done anything impressive. It's other people who make you realise what you've done." The reason why Smith was fu-

rious with himself was Kieren Perkins. The Australian is the double Olympic champion at Having the same surname as 1,500 metres and this world this water torture for longer Michelle hardly helped the pro- record is 20 seconds faster than

just qualified for the final in last

He was hardly out of Smith's mind - "when he got through I thought 'Oh, no, you can never count this guy out of it" - but he was out of sight in lane eight and had established a race-winning lead before the supposedly faster swimmers in the centre were aware of him. "It wasn't until the turn at 400

rewards its athletes.

spent. If it wasn't for the prospect

of an Olympic gold I'd have prob-

Perkins did not qualify, the frailty

that was hidden so emphatical-

ly in the Olympic final having

floated to the surface. "I've no

SOUTHWELL (AW)

1.10 Bunnies Own 1.40 GREENSPAN (nap)

GOING: Standard STALLS: Inside DRAW ADVANTAGE: None

2.10 Petoskin

Another spur in Perth is that

ably given up the sport."

metres that I noticed, 'Oh God he's so far ahead'. By 500 I knew the gold medal was his unless he blew up completely." That jolt, plus the effort of trying to chase Perkins, meant that Smith was pipped for silver by 500th of a second by another Australian, Dan Kowalski. The long chase, as the leader was slowly but not completely reeled in, and the race for silver, made one of the best races in the

Georgia Tech Aquatic Centre. idea how Kieren improved so much in Atlanta," Smith said, "I Time has brought a sense of spoke to him after and he said proportion with it and Smith concedes that if he had to be finhe'd been practising a longer ger-tipped away from a place it stroke in the heats and when we

hardest event of all, the sport's Olympics, but although the distance, but at Atlanta be only close to gold or to have been. He went back to his old style and pipped for a medal at all. But suddenly it clicked again. knowing that gold could have "He was my hero, no, he still

been his is why he goes in the You've got to admire what he's done. Double Olympic champipool every morning. It is why he has continued with a sport that. on, world champion and world despite lottery money, barely record holder, he's awesome really. It will make a difference that "I'm probably worse off than he's not going to be at the World I was before," he said, "I get one Championships. You can be big grant now, whereas before 1 ranked No 1 in the world but you had three or four. People think know he's swum 22 seconds that Olympic medallists are faster than I've ever done. In the rolling in it but it just isn't the back of your mind you know that case. My fear is that we'll go to if he hits his best the gold medal is his. In Perth it's going to be Sydney, not do as well as we are expected to do and everyone will wonder why the money's been

Smith has qualified to swim in the 400m freestyle, too - the event in which Palmer got his Olympic silver – but as many of his rivals for the 1.500m are racing in that event, he might rest for the longer race. "They could take something out of themselves," he said. "If I'm fresh it might make the difference." As Smith flew out with the

British squad for the World Championships on Boxing Day, rest is relative. Perhaps just 1.000

2.40 Sealed By Fate

3.10 Glider (nb)

3.40 Trojan Hero

1.10 HOOPLA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 3f Penalty Value £3,436

1.40 CONKERS CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added

BETTING: 4-6 Greenspan, 5-2 Pickens, 5-1 Mystersum, 16-1 African Sun, 25-1 Double Echo. 1997: Greenspan 5-9 9 A Clark 8-11 lav (W.Murr) drawn (3) -1 ran ਕਤਾ (ਤਾਦਾਬਮਕਾਤ ਤੋਂ ਨੇ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਦਾ ਸਿੰਘਾ ਸਿੰਘਾ ਪੰਜਾਬ ਮੁੱਕ ਕਿਸ FORM GUIDE In the seller here in November, GREENSPAN was left (railing by Burundi, but he had

in the seller here in November, GREENSPAN was left trailing by Burundi, but he had Pickens (level weights) three and a half lengths back in fourth. Despite being 7to worse oft. Greenspan bear Pickens four lengths when winning a claiming race here a month ago Pickens has another 7to pull this time, so he should narrow the gap but Greenspan can follow up last years win from just three others at 8-11. Pickens was the only one to get anywhere near fee. Mund here last Finday and is the obvious choice to make a race

Palmer leads the way as Britain look to the future

Medals are notoriously hard to come by at World Championships. **But as preparations** continue for the swimming disciplines in Perth, the British are more concerned with blooding their promising youngsters. James Parrack reports.

British team after their disaster in Atlanta last year. Now the financial tap has finally been turged on and the pool is rapidly filling with talented young swimmers from whom much will he expected in the coming years.

The eighth World Championships opened in Perth, Western Australia, yesterday for 12 days of competition, but the mers do not start work until 9 o'clock on Monday morning, led by Paul Palmer and Mark Foster.

Both will be fired up from outstanding performances at last summer's European Championships in Seville, where Palmer won two golds and a bronze, and Foster won silver. But the real excitement will come with the opening of a bottle of team spirit labelled "men's 4x200 freestyle relay" on Tuesday. Champions of Europe, they will be challenging the Americans and Australians. It is the closest Britain is likely to come to gold medals since David Wilkie won two in 1975.

But at World Championship level, medals are notoriously difficult to collect and Deryk Snelling, Britain's performance director, is no fool. "The top spots are owned by an élite group from the last Olympics. In Perth we are developing a professional, businesslike attitude." The plan is that the new wave of talent will be blooded into a team of professionals with a clear vision of their future.

Other nations may have plans, but none can be as cunning is to get our young swimmers—lence would be deafening

comfortable at world competitions. Then we must make the top eight. From there we will step on to the podium."

The other two men capable of making that step are the world short-course champion. James Hickman, and the Olympic bronze medallist. Graeme Smith. In the surprise absence of the world champion and multiple world record holder, Denis Pankratov, in the 200 metres butterfly, Hickman will relish the chance to pick up a mi-"Show me the money," cried the nor medal. He will be supported by Steve Parry, who showed great maturity in his international debut, winning bronze in Seville.

With no medals from the 1994 worlds in Rome, the team will be aiming to better the two they won from Atlanta. The trend for British swimmers to populate main finals and consolation finals is an encouraging one that the team must continue in Perth. The women, how-. ever, still have some catching up to do and will be hard pushed to make an individual final.

But the women's events as a whole are likely to provide an unwelcome focus. The whispers around the pooldeck of drug use by the Chinese women has turned to shouting, especially given yesterday's seizure at Perth airport. At a meeting in Perth on Tuesday, enormous pressures was put on the governing body of world swimming. Fina, to maintain a four-year ban on steroid users. instead of following the international line and reducing it to two. The Fina president intervened amid vociferous arguments to announce the retention of the four-year ban.

In German courts at the moment, former East German swimmers are claiming damages for abuse, after being forced to take steroids as young as the age of 12. Six coaches and doctors stand accused. Feeling is so strong about the issue that spectators may take the unprecedented step of turning their back on medal ceremonies dominatas the one Snelling has. "Step one ed by Chinese. The symbolic si-

Favourite out of Ladbroke

The best-backed horse has been pulled out of tomorrow's big race. Richard Edmondson reports.

All the machinations concerning the booking of a rider for Commanche Court, the favourite for tomorrow's Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardslown, came to naught yesterday. Ted Walsh's Triumph Hurdle winner looked poorly on the gallops and performed similarly and will not now In in the valuable handicap.

"Commanche Court didn't fire this morning," Walsh said. "His rider, Stephen Nolan, said he was just a bit flat and I didn't think he went particularly well so he doesn't run.

I've never seen one that worked bad and ran well. It's disappointing but there was no agonising about it and I took the decision straight away. The Tote Gold Trophy is five weeks 9-4 shot with Coral (from 4-1). they expected him to give weight

thing and he had been 100 per cent before today."

pion, may, however, be suffering from acute embarrassment. He had begged off an appointment on one of Aidan O'Brien's horses to secure the mount on Commanche Court and now has to return baving used up brownie points fruitlessly. "That's racehorses for you," Swan said. "More than likely I will now ride Toast The Spreece ahead of Theatreworld. That one was second in the Champion Hurdle but it will be hard to win

the Ladbroke off 12st." The new favourite is Graph-"I've seen horses that have ic Equaliser, who is in the stewworked well and run bad but ardship of the Ladbroke specialist Arthur Moore. The trainer also has the fancied

Major Jamie in the race. The prospect of a British

away and we will see how he is Top Cees is the most fancied of to Princeful at Cheltenham on in a week to 10 days' time and the travellers and it may be that New Year's Day. Although that take it from there. He doesn't his trainer is confidently spendappear to be suffering from any- ing the proceeds before the ish 14 lengths clear of the third gelding has broken sweat. Lynda Ramsden will listen to how Charlie Swan, the Irish cham-Top Cees progresses on a line from South Africa.

Nicky Henderson's Sharpical is at short odds for an animal not guaranteed to act on the terrible ground, but there is a measure of stable confidence Herries booked Peter Niven vesterday. "It's disappointing not to get Richard Dunwoody and I just hope Sandown doesn't get called off now," she said. "But even if it does I will stick with Peter. Tibetan is very well and ran a very, very good race at Kempton. I am never confident, but I am hopeful."

Moorish, the mount of Tom Jenks, will be a first Leopardstown runner for in-form Nigel Twiston-Davies. Those at Grange Hill Farm considered winner is now a rather meagre their runner to be so well that

Now the Jockey Club will

consider an increase in that di-

rection from the 14 days maxi-

mum that course stewards can

impose for such offences. The

Club's spokesman, John Maxse,

said: "The penalty was increased

from 10 to 14 days last year, but

if jockeys continue to make

these mistakes the Disciplinary

Committee will have no option

but to re-examine the penalties."

was beyond him Moorish did finand the good vibes remain. "He is in very good form and I was very pleased with him last time." Twiston-Davies said yesterday. "He will probably struggle but if you don't run you don't know."

Even the winner is likely to struggle tomorrow. The ground has turned to gruel at Leopbehind Tibetan, for whom Lady ardstown and the likelihood is that the chases on the card will he abandoned. Fresh ground has been set aside for the big one, though, and officials remain confident it will go ahead. LADBROKE BETTING

Horse	C	H			
Graphic Equaliser	5-1	9-2	9-2	4	
Sharpical	8-1	10-1	19-1	8-	
Top Cees	10-1	91	B-1	_ 8-	
Arctic Weather	11-1	10-1	11/1	10	
Major Jamie	77-1	12-1	12-1	10-	
Tibetan	12-1	12-1	_π·1_	10-1	
Hard News	21	14-1	12.1	10	
Metastasio	141	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Toass The Spreece	14-1	15-1	16-1	16-1	
Each way a quarter the colds, places 1, 2, 3, 4					
C. Corol H. William Hill L. Larbrokes T. Tote					

Hopes high for Sandown

Tomorrow's cards at Haydock and Warwick were abandoned vesterday but hopes are high that Sandown will be able to stage its valuable televised card. Channel 4 are due to show

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Whitley Grange Boy (Southwell 2.10) NB: Twin Creeks (Southwell 3.40)

"Prospects are very good." been raceable today."

er Jack has been kept ticking over with two outings in novice hurdles, he was a beaten favourite in both and it's difficult to be confident about him. The serie explies to Petoskini, Not one of the five races he won lest year was a handicap — although he did nor beindge to three parts of a length under Set 12b at Lingfield in February, so he's not wohout a chance. Top Prize has won twice over this two nales but firshed a remate sixth behind Understudy's stablemate. Noutant, here on Monday. Another that course winner. Wildfire, tackles this trip for the first time. 2.40 SKITTLES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 6f

	CONTO. DISTORIC	•	ODD-BABACKAGAIN (148) (M C S D Racing) N Littmoden 9.7
i	STALLS: Inside	٠	00002- RED PEPPER (30) (Rosefield UK Ltd) P Howling 9.4
ł	DRAW ADVANTAGE: None	3	0000-3 PENNILESS (7) LI M G Promotions Ltd) N Tinkler 8 t3
ı	♠ Fibresand surface, left-hand sharp, oval course.	•	
ł		4	0600-4 SEALED BY FRITE (7) (B Selective Partperstep) J Warremorts 8 12
ı	Course is 3m SE of fown and 5m W of Newark Rolleston Junction adjoins course.	- 5	565 DISPOL EMERALD (175) (S E Kettlewell) S Kettlewell 8 9
ı	ADMISSION: Club \$12, Terrersalis £6 (OAP members of course's Diamond Club £4, ac-	6	00406- BLUE ANCHOR (134) (D.R. Wellcome) Mrs M. Raveley 8.6
ł	companied under-16s free) CAR PARK: Free	7	050-0 WOODLANDS PRIDE (7) (Enc Knowles) M Chapman 8.4 F Norton 5
ı	♠ LEADING TRAINERS: M Johnston 41-206 (199%), S βowring 40-319 (125%), J L		-7 declared -
Ì	Eyre 32-224 (14-3%), D Chapman 31-345 (9%), R Hollinshead 29-335 (87%).	De	
ı			SETTING: 9-4 Penniless, 11-4 Sealed By Fate, 4-1 Red Pepper, 5-1 Imbacksgain, 7-1 Blue Ancho:
1	● LEADING JOCKEYS: J Quinn 29-439 (66%), Dean McKeown 25-289 (8.7%), F Lynch	10	0-1 Dianol Emerald, 20-1 Woodlands Pride
ł	21-162 (13%), S Sanders 19-169 (112%), A Culhane 18-192 (94%), M Fenton 12-119 (10.1%).	29	997; Gresatre 3 8 11 Jo Humam (7) 9-1 (C Dwyer) drawn (9) 9 ran
Į	● FAVOURITES: 480-1394 (344%).	-	FORM GUIDE
ł	BLINKERED FIRST TIME: I See You Sydney (110). African Sun (140)	_	
1	BUNKERED FIRST TIME: 1 See 100 Syuney (110). Adresis Sun (140)		isaled By Fate probably needed the outing when 11th to I'm Tell here on December 18
ł		D.F	and he firsthad a navad deal rineer to Int Toll when to with in Bark Aristoan a week ann

Seried 29 Fate probably needed the outing when this to I'm Tel here on December 18 and he finished a good deal closer to I'm Tel when touth to Pip's Addition a week ago. Sealed By Fate tried to make all in that seven-furiong handicap, so perhaps coming back in distance will help, and he carried 46 overweight too. PENNILESS also ran a more encouraging race here last Friday and, in finishing third to Julies Jewel, publied well clear of the others including Woodlands Philde, Backed from 20-1 to 6-1 then. Permises shouldn't be to away in this weaker handicap. Red Pepper's toung tactics enabled him to best at ber easy witner Desmond Drill in a seven-furiong maiden at Lingfield a month ago. This course can suit a front-numer but Red Pepper is exposed and has had more racing than limbackagain, Diapol Emerald and Blue Anchor put together. Trained at two by Patrick Haslam, Imbackagain showed a gimmer of promes at Wolverhampton in seventh to The Grovester. This handicap could be more his port of race even with top weight Ospol Emerald dout of a mare that has produced four winners) is prother lightly-raced type that might do better in her first handicap. Blue Anchor was found warning in two ourseres last year but it could be a different story here, as he's been dropped 9th since his south to Inchalong at Musselburgh in August. JACKS SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 3YO

ļ	3.10	7f Penalty Value £1,738
1	0004-5	HOUSE ON FIRE (7) (Bren Chandler) J Berry 8 12 C Lowther (3) 2
2	2 0243-€	RECOGNITION (6) (K.S.Lee) M Postage 8 12
3	3 0-	SUPER IMPOSE (18) (Mrs V Bamptori) John Berry 8 12 M Fanton 5 E
4		BEDTIME STORY (22) [Matthews Breeding and Racing) R Guest 8 7Dane O'Neill 9
5		GLIDER (22) (Guy Read) C Thornton 8 7 Destri McKeown 8
6	6 00-	NORY GIRL (100) (Miss Catnona MacDonald) K Wingrove 6 7
7	003	JUST FOR TINA (14) IC John Hift W G M Turner 8 7
ε	053-	SHE'S A GEM (22) (BF) (Maunce Kirby) Mrs N Macauley 8 7 P McCabe (3) 4
ő		MINISTER CHARGE CHARGES NI democracy C. 7

BETTING: 11-4 Gilder, 3-1 She'a A Gem, 9-2 House On Fire, 5-1 Bedtime Story, 6-1 Recognit 8-1 Super Impose, 14-1 Just For Tine, Windence, 33-1 heavy Girl 1997: La Doice Vita 3 8 5 Victoria Appleisy (7) 8-4 for (1 Beron) drawn (2) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

When Pip's Addition won the course and distance seller three weeks ago, third-placed She's A Gem (texourite) had the edge in experience over Gilder, just a neck away in fourth, and BEDTIME STORY, who finished four lengths away fifth. She's A Gem should be thereabouts again, but Gilder and Bedtime Shory might have more from for improvement at this stage. Al. 5-1, Bedtime Shory was not unlanced first three on, white Super tempose went off only 7-2 in the Lingfield marden auction won by Tangerine Flyet. Super impose finished last, behind Just For Time, but it might be awayes to rule him out at this level Just For Time will find this seller fourbur than the claimse of temporary accounts and the seller and the claimse of temporary accounts. Just for Time will find this seller tougher than the claimer at Wolverhampton where she was that to Touchanova. The Professione maider in which Up At The Top beat Recognition has yet to throw up a winner and Recognition finished last of six in Tangenne Flyers handicap at Lingfield on Saturday on his limit into Mark Polgasse. That was over just five furfores and Recognition can do better in this seven-furiong seller. House On Fire can make his presence telt, white Windance could be better oil than most new-comers in that she's trained on Fibresand.

Selection: BEDTIME GLORY 3.40 HOPSCOTCH HANDICAP (CLASS D) 55,000 added 79 Penalty Value £3,583

get anywhere their their man had been the funt first in five months) when he best one of it. Mysterium was ennised to need the funt first in five months) when he best one home in Wildmoor's handicap at Wolverhampton last time, but he has a bit to prove when the first first form for the first firs	2 DELP GLESSHUUSE (JB) (Mas C Foster) R Webchruse 4 100
or comes to staying this trip and Inished ten lengths off the winner. Minor Four Sport, when runner-up in an IT-furlong claimer here in the summer. Selection: GREENSPAN.	5 06000 V / P CHARLIE (181) (C) (Andy Taylor) K Wingtone 4 9 9
2.10 MARBLES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,085	7 222-4 ELTON LEDGER (r) (CD) (The Posse) Mrs N Macauley 9.9 1
1 DOGS2 SLASHER JACK (J24) (T C Chang) R Febry 7 100	10 60312- TROJAN HERO (SÁF) (42) (D) (SÁF) (C C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 7 8 m , A Cultisme m 03234- FAYRK (14) (BF) (Chre Bradbury) A Newcombe 4 8 10
3 OTT33 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY (22) (L) (BF) (WS 1 SWEET LEVIE 3 2	2 00005- DOVEBRACE (88) (David A Joines IT D Berron 5 8 8
5 14:00 EL BALLADOR (34) (C) (Ars Join Lee) J Bethel 795 S Drowne 2 6 04:06 EVEZIO RUPO (J13) (C) 7 Clarket N Latronden 6 8 C K Pleareport (7) 9 8 7 03:46 WILDFIRE (SWI) (27) (C) (Canspay Successors List J Akenursi 78 12 Spanden 5	BETTING: 4-1 Dovebrace, 5-1 Twin Creeks, 6-1 Trojon Haro, 7-1 Sustitecti, 6-1 Brutal Fentacy, Broat stairs Beauty, 10-1 Fayrit, 12-1 Etton Ledger, Don Pepe, 14-1 Johnnie The John, Ziggy's Dance
8 (35%): ZESTI (J13) (Mrs. / Lewis) F Howard 0 7	V) P Charlie, 20-1 Glesshouse 1997: State Of Causon 4 9 2 J Fanning 5-1 (D Shaw) drawn (1) 11 ran
10 (000-6 TOP PRIZE (4) (CD) (Mel Britton) M Britton 10 7:10	FORM GUIDE Liseful at two, disappointing at three and without a win at four, DOVEBRACE could stingue a future at this game judged on his lifth behind Saity Jack at Lingheld. David Ba
- 11 GOCALTON CARACTER SALES	nave a lottre at his game proget of the fill of the off years at Linguist. Oavid pa

BETTING: 4-1 Quyblance, 5-1 fish Creeks, 9-1 trippin http:, 1-1 sustain princey, protections as the security, 10-1 Feytik, 12-1 Bitton Ladge; Don Pepe, 14-1 Johnsie The Joker, Ziggy's Dencer, V 1 P Charille, 20-1 Bigsshouse
197: State Of Causon 4-9 2-J Farring 5-1 (i) Shaw) drawn (i) Trian
FORM GUIDE

Useful at two, disappointing at three and without a win at four, DOVEBRACE could still have a future at this game judged on his fifth behind Satty Jack at Lingfield. Dand Barron doesn't have as many runners as he did in all-westher racrigit early years, but a double in Nevember shows he still has the lonack. Twith Creeks is capable of a good run under a big weight in this sort of handicap and could be a safet bet then most despite carrying 10st. First time out at three. Bruttal Farriassy won well over as furtings here, so he might be worth the benefit of the doubt as far as this longer trip is concerned. Y I P Charille also made a winning debut on Fibrestand early last year and followed up at Lingfield (both wine for Seb Sanders), but he'd lost his form by mid-summer and has changed stables in the meantime. Derek Shaw won both divisions of the claimer here on Monday and last year is race with State Of Caution. He's represented by the durable Breadstains Beauty, racring over seven furiongs for the first time since 1984 and perhaps better as a sprinter. Ethica Ledger is over a more suitable trip but competition is tougher than in two recent mide claimers, while Johnstie The Joker could be high enough in the handicap following his successful summer spell and he now with Oavid Nichola, who does well with horses he gets time reservate. At seven, Don Pepe last too old to bource back and the stable has had winners they week.

Quinn sparks punter anger and Club action

The Jockey Club may increase the penalty for jockeys who lose races by dropping their hands. Jimmy Quinn yesterday became the latest rider to receive a 14-day suspension from the stewards - and abuse from the public - when he forfeited Lingfield's opening race on

THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES

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LIVE COMMENTABLES SESULTS

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970 Cafe care Silp per minute. TLS, pic, Screene St SCA 477

SOUTHWELL 973

Quinn apologised to Hugh Collingridge, Badrinath's trainer, and the public, but his words did little to soothe those who staked £4,330 on Badrinath in recorded bets. One of those punters, Alf Walls, said: "I had a very substantial bet on Badrinath and I think that Quinn, proba-Badrinath, easing his mount bly the most experienced jockdown and being caught by the ey on the all-weather, should short-head winner. Bon Guest. have got three months."

RESULTS

LINGFIELD

12-30: 1. BON GUEST (A Cark) 12-1; 2. Badrinath 5-4 faz, 3. Mislemani 18-1 8 ran. Shrid 28- (Mass B Sanders) Totac 2400; CSD, CTD, CSA, DP. 2500, CSF; 226-59 Timast 234076. The: EBB20. NF: Jubilee Scholer. 1,00: 1. PAINT IT BLACK (A Nichols) 9-2; 2. Rocky Waters 15-2; 3. Waders Dream 33-1 14 ran. 4-1 faz Larcasivir Lagand (Hill.) N; nic (D Nichols) Tota: 25-50; 22-2, 230, CSD, CSF; 23-58. This: 25-80. 1,30: 1. ANOKATO (Martin Dwyer) 11-4; 2. Palacagate Jack 2-1 fax; 3. Pielin Gaz 12-1.6 ran. Fid. shid-di (K Nory): Tota: 25-50; 22-90, E130. DF; E730. CSF; EBB0. 2,00: 1. SNOW AND IXE (M Adems) 1-1; 2. Appyabo 7-4 fax; 3. Roger Ress 25-1 (I ran. 5, 6, M Candy); Tota: 21200; E310, CTD, CTD, CSF; EBB0. 11; 25-50. This: 25-50. NF; Fight. LINGFIELD

2.30: 1. BILLADDEE (Dane O'Neil) 9-2:
2. Four Of Spades 11-1; 3. Sweet Supposition 11-4 in ten. 7 ran. 11-4 in ten Mutti Franchiss (eth), 11/4, 10 (film Flower) Total (SBD), 12-0. CSF: E48.13. Titles (SBD), DF: E27.10. CSF: E48.13. Titles (SAD), T. LEGAL LARK (J. Ourn) 6-1; 2. Treble Tent 100-30: 3. Just Another Time 4-6 lau. 4 ran. 1/4, 11/4. (P Howling), Total (SBD), E19.0. CSF: E21.00. NF: Sada. 3.30: 1. COASTGLIANDS HERO (J. Marshall) 10-1; 2. Hel Hoo Varoom 10-1; 3. Royal Chrass 15-1 8 ran. 15-8 fav Planquista D'Or (Hith), 1/4, (M. Usher), Total E14.40; E2.70. SSB0, E38.0. DF: SSB0, CSF: E30.06. Thoss: F14.32: 7. Trio: E228.70. NF: Temptress. Jackopte Not wort; E34.56 carned forward.

Jackpot: Not wort; 2514561 carried forward to Southwell today. Placepot: 215190. Guadpot: 219510. Place 6: 2789.73. Place 6: 237697.

four races from the Esher course including the Grade One Tolworth Hurdle.

the clerk of the course. Andrew Cooper, said. "We would have Yesterday's jumps card at

Carterick and today's fixtures at Exeter and Towcester have already been lost to the persistent

F F.

Maurice Lindsay, who had lost his credibility as the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, has fallen on his

feet again, apparently

landing another top job,

as Dove Hadfield reports.

Maurice Lindsay has again proved himself the game's

great survivor by being pushed out of one top job in the sport only to be poised to leap sideways into another.

Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League for the last five years, was asked for his resignation by the RFL's chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, at a meeting of the code's board of directors this week.

That seemed to mark the demise of a man who has dominated the administration of the

game since he masterminded the rise of Wigan in the 1980s. But, within hours, Lindsay was lined up with a new job as managing director of Super League (Europe) - the elite competition he was instrumental in launching when the game in Britain accepted an £87m television deal with Rupert Murdoch in 1995 - subject to the approval of Super League clubs at a meeting next Friday.

troversy over the Super League revolution, but after an unhappy 1997 - which included an invedstigation into accusations over his expenses which produced no evidence, alleged mismanagement of development funds and a near miss in his bid to become chairman of the Tote - he was told at Wednesday's meeting that he no longer commanded the confidence of clubs nor of his staff at league headquarters. Lindsay weathered the con-

mate concern over whether League (Europe), and Mr after being issued yesterday. he is the best person to negotiate with a newly reunified game in Australia.

24/SPORT

Lindsay stirs controversy again by finding himself new position of influence

"I can confirm that a discussion took place which involved the board," said Sir Rodney, who last year headed a working party on the running of the game, which heard criticism of Lindsay from all quarters. "Subsequently, there was a meeting between Chris CaisLindsay, which resulted in him standing down as chief executive of the RFL."

Those who were determined to get rid of Lindsay are angry now that he has apparently found a bolt hole, in the shape of what could yet prove to be an equally influential job. It was in the light of those misgivings that a statement announcing his move to Super League as a fait

There could also be legiti- ley, the chairman of Super accompli was withdrawn soon That new job now hinges on

convincing the clubs that he can work effectively alongside Super League's chief executive, Colin Myler, based in London. However it all resoives itself, it is an appropriately messy ending to his five turbulent

From within the game, David Howes and Gary Hetherington, chief executives at St Helens and Leeds respectively, could emerge as candidates, while Brian Smith, the former coach and chief execuyears at the helm of the game tive at Bradford who is now as a whole. He will be recoaching in Australia, would be placed, at least in the short a strong overseas contender. term, by his articulate and

a SUCCESSOT.

well-respected No.2, Neil Tun-

nicliffe, but the League may

well look outside the game for

Newcastle's bottle is food and drink to seasoned Tait

The conservative wing of the Rugby Football Union may find it difficult to stomach, but Sir John Hall's Newcastle are ahead of the Allied **Dunbar Premiership** pack and growing stronger by the day. Are the Geordies here to stay? Our Rugby Correspondent gets the lowdown on the high life from a key foot-soldier in rugby's Toon Army.

There is more than a touch of the "nobody likes us and we don't care "about Newcastle as they continue to buck the system and home in on Premiership honours at their first attempt. They boast an owner who has ruffled more establishment feathers than a fox in a chicken coop, a director of rugby whose squeaky clean image has slipped to reveal a competitive streak of purest granite, a captain who reacts to every yellow card with increased vigour and an uncompromising professional attitude that leaves the "play up and play the game" brigade spluttering into their G and Ts.

In fact, they could be a mirror image of the Wimbledon of Sam Hamman and Viony Jones, except for one important distinction. They have class. Oodles of it. Class in the tight five, class in the back row, class at half-back, class out wide. They may not be the youngest side in the Premiership, but the preponderance of thirtysomethings has given them a "now or never" edge that is proving extremely difficult to resist.

Two of those elder statesmen, Rob Andrew and Dean Ryan. are combining demanding roles with a dexterity that speaks volumes for their professionalism and powers of self-motivation. As director of rugby and outsidehalf. Andrew has become every bit as adept at winning the games played in the boardroom as those played outside on the Kingston Park pitch. As coach and captain, Ryan has persuaded a hard core of more experienced internationals to follow him out of the trenches and into the line of fire. In short, the renegade Wasps have matched Sir

the Scottish centre who performed so influentially as a Lions Test wing in South Africa last summer, "a hard edge here. Very definitely. And as someone who played a lot of rugby league at a good level, I respond to that. No one at Newcastle is there to mess about. We train, we play and, at the moment at least, we win. I've been extremely impressed with the management and coaching at the club, not least because it has created a culture of success."

At 33, Tait is a seasoned performer, autumn being the season in question. (The same can be said of Gary Armstrong. Nick Popplewell, George Graham and Richard Arnold). Yet his influence and enthusiasm are such that Newcastle may well offer to extend his contract beyond the end of the current campaign, leaving Tait to decide between putting his body on the line for another year and upping sticks in pursuit of a coaching position elsewhere.

"To be honest with you, I was

BY CHRIS **HEWETT**

sceptical about how we would perform in the top tlight after winning promotion last year." he said. "Not because I didn't feel we were a good side, but because I wondered whether we had left our preparation too late. Five of us went on the Lions tour, some were abroad with England, others were injured. There was no pre-season to speak of, no chance to build for the Premiership challenge.

"When we left for France in late July for a week in Agen, I was still aching from the Lions trip. But looking back, that camp was crucial. There was a good gym, good weather and a strong emphasis on fitness. There were no moans, no excuses, no time-wasters. When we played Agen, who are some side, at the end of our stay, we won. I knew then that there was a fair bit of bottle in the squad."

That "bottle" element is important to Tait, whose league experience with Widnes and Leeds, not to mention his 16 Hopefully, it will bring the best says he will give the captaincy John Hall's ruthlessness in kind. Great Britain caps, taught him out of us."

"There is," agrees Alan Tait, that success in a professional sport is usually paid for in blood, sweat and tears. "What encourages me about Newcastle is our ability to steal games. We won at Bath in the last minute and we won at Sale when we were looking down both barrels for much of the afternoon. Those sorts of results indicate character.

"Perhaps they indicate that luck is on our side, too. You need luck in a drawn-out competition like the Premiership and the longer you stay at the head of the pile, the more the good fortune seems to stick around. I played through some bad times at Leeds and it often appeared that although we were performing as well as the teams at the top, the bounce of the ball was against us. At Newcastle at the moment, the bounce is with us." There are also, however,

sound tactical reasons why Newcastle go unbeaten into Sunday's home match with London Irish. "I think we've made a virtue of strong defence and the league experience plays a part in that," Tait said. "When Inga (Va'aiga Tuigamala, the dual unionleague specialist from New Zealand) and I play together in midfield, we move up far quicker than most, very much in the 13-man style. Opponents are forever claiming we play offside. but if they watch the videos with a dispassionate eye they'll find what we do is perfectly legal. Southern hemisphere teams play the same trick and get slapped on the back for it. When we do it, we get it in the neck. That's life, I suppose.

a strong, physical pack that has Ryan is in real form, Pat Lam and Ross Nesdale are good operators and Garath Archer is back to his best. We may not have the quickest pack in the world and it will be interesting to see how they go when the weather improves, but at the moment they are winning us ball.

"It would be daft to take anything for granted because the big games are still to come: Bath and Saracens at home will definiteis after our scalp. But that's nothing new to me; Leeds were the most unpopular league side in England when I was there, so I'm



Alan Tait: 'There is hard edge here. No one at Newcastle is there to mess about

"I would also say that we have Rejuvenated Evans back in the running for Welsh captaincy

delivered week in, week out, es- Ieuan Evans, Wales' record- Wales' Five Nations warm-up pecially in the bad conditions. breaking captain, could emerge fixture against Italy at Stradey as a surprise contender to reclaim the job for this season's Five Nations' Championship.

Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, must appoint a new leader following the careerending spinal injury suffered by the flanker Gwyn Jones last month and he admits there are several candidates.

Evans, 34 in March, was today recalled to the national squad after an 11-month ably test us, especially as everyone sence caused through Lions commitments and injuries which saw him miss seven Tests.

Bowring praised the Bath wing with 71 caps as "a talisman used to that sort of animosity. and model professional," and

Park, Llanelli on 7 February. Evans has led Wales a record 28 times, and clearly figures in

Bowring's thinking alongside Robert Howley, Scott Gibbs, Gareth Llewellyn and Neil Jenkins. "There a number of candidates," said Bowring, who announced a 53-man squad featuring Evans' Lions colleague Scott Quinnell, another notable absentee during the autumn international programme that featured matches against Romania, Tonga and New Zealand. "But it is not a decision we would

this injury, but knows it will be make quickly." Evans has taken time to establish himself at Bath since his summer move from Llanelli, yet Cardiff, Pontypridd, Swansea careful consideration before Bowring believes he is produc- and Llanelli, provide 37 players.

ing world-class form once again. "His enthusiasm to play for Wales remains as strong as ever, and he's back in the squad

to help us try and succeed in this season's Five Nations." Bowring has kept in close touch with the family of his former captain Jones and the University of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, where the popular medical student is slowly recovering. "Gwyn is showing encouraging signs of progress," Bowring said. "He has movement in all four limbs, and can stand unaided for a few seconds. He's as motivat-

a slow, hard slog." The top four Welsh clubs.

ed and committed to overcome

Bath and Harlequins, but unfashionable Ebbw Vale also gain recognition with stand-off Byron Hayward and flanker ities and it will cost us jobs." Kingsley Jones rewarded.

Kingsley Jones rewarded.

WALES SQUAD (v Italy, 7 February, and for Five Nations' Championship); Backs: A Batternari (Fichinord) N Boobyer (Lienell), L Davies (Cardift), I Evans (Bain), S Glibe (Swarssal, M Girsud (London Weish), H Harries (Fistieculus), B Heyward (Ebbw Weish, R Howsey (Cardift) D James, N Jentins, P John, J Lewis (al Porthypridd), A Moore (Fictimond), K Morgan (Porthypridd), W Proctor (Lianell), R Shorney (UWIC), A Thomas (Swarsel), G Thomas, J Thomas, N Walter (Swarsel, G Thomas, J Thomas, N Walter (Swarsel, G Thomas, J Thomas, N Walter (Swarsel, G Thomas, J Thomas, N Walter (Swarsel), C Hundell, G Charlins (Swarsel), H Jendine (Lianell), N Eyron (Porthypodd), Edwarder, C Charvis (all Swarsel), H Jendine (Lianell), S John (Cardiff), K Jones (Ebbw Vale), A Lawis (Cardiff), G Liewellyn (Fistieculus), M Lloyd (Porthypidd), R McGryde (Lianell), A Moore (Mostery), L Mustoe (Swarsel), C Cultimal (Richmond), S Guinnell (Richmond), C Staphens (Bridgerd), N Thomas (Bath), M Wyle (Lianell), B Willians (Richmond), Chrimonas (Bath), M Wyle (Lianell), B Willians (Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Cardins, Marinella, M Willians (Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Chrimonas (Richerd), Richmond), Cardins, Marinella, Richmond), Cardins, Richmond, Chrimond, Cardins, Richmond, Chrimond, Chriman, Chrimond, Chrimo

- Andrew Baldock it's gone."

MOTOR RACING

Anti-smoking lobby sees red over Williams

Williams' new car design may only be a day old, but anti-smoking groups have already urged the Australian government to ban the Formula One team from advertising Winfield cigarettes on its cars in this year's Australian Grand Prix.

The car's new red livery features the Winfield brand logo and a picture of a kangaroo and objectors say the deal breaches the spirit of Australia's antitobacco sponsorship law.

All forms of tobacco advertising are banned, but the law allows exemptions if a major international sporting event such as the grand prix would otherwise be lost.

Dr Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, president of the Non-Smokers' Movement of Australia, said the exemption is intended to allow international events to be unimpeded by local law. "But this sponsorship is against the spirit of the agreement because it is supposed to be for international brands and I believe the government could act to say this is not on," he said.

Chesterfield-Evans also called on the government to tell Williams to drop the Winfield colours for the grand prix.

However, a spokesman for Rothmans, who own the brand, said the deal with Williams was an international one and therefore within the law. "There's an assumption that Winfield is only sold in Australia, that's not the case. It's sold in 13 countries on three continents."

The row over tobacco ading in Britain, either. Lord Hesketh, president of the British Racing Drivers' Club, the owners of Silverstone, said yesterday. The implications for British motorsport are very bad indeed," he said on the decision to ban tobacco sponsorship in sport. "It's a demented policy. It's bad, cheap, single issue pol-

Motorsport has been given a temporary stay of execution from the ban, which will affect other sports soon after the millennium, but it has been ordered to investigate alternative forms of revenue.

"The effects will be long term. Races will move from Europe to the Far East and it won't take long for people to realise it's cheaper to relocate to where the races are held," he added. "Fifty thousand jobs are at stake here. However, I get the feeling that people will only discover what they have lost when

EQUESTRIANISM

Artists, airheads and new arrivals prepare for life on tour

Earning a card to play on the European Tour is a dream come true. The recruits cannot wait for the season to start, but as Andy Farrell, in San Roque, Spain, discovers, not all of them are experiencing the magic for the first time.

Apollo was always an appropriate sponsor for the European Tour's Training School, an event bringing together graduates from the Challenge Tour and the Qualifying School prior to what is meant to be the lift-off

of their golfing careers. Although MacGregor have the European and American teams stayed for last September's Ryder Cup, the idea re-

nutritionists are all here to offer their expertise to 21 new recruits from seven countries to the European circuit.

common goal in earning his tour card. Many are wet behind the ears. "I'm looking forward to putting on good greens," one said. "Don't bank on it." came the cynical reply. None are more grateful, however, than those who have loved and lost their cards in the past.

John Hawksworth appeared in the same Walker Cup team in 1985 as Colin Montgomerie, Peter Baker and David Gilford. In his two head-to-head meetings with Montgomerie. Hawksworth won each time. Last Sunday night, while Monnow taken over the backing for ty was picking up \$1m in Arithe week at San Roque, where zona, the 36-year-old Midlander was "picking up a cup of tea while watching him on the TV".

"Colin was not the main

changed drastically."

Hawksworth's has had to change, too. Last November's Qualifying School was his 10th Each player has realised a attempt to gain a card and only the second time he has been successful. Having first arrived on tour in 1990, he lost his card three years later. Last season "was a nightmare". He made only £546.98 from 10 Challenge Tour events, and was then reduced to playing the odd regional PGA event and money matches, some for sums in ex-

cess of four figures. "I had a sticky time when I was married," he said. "I wasn't happy. The worst I ever felt was when I failed to pre-qualify for the Open last summer. I didn't know if I could carry on."

Meeting Kamini Aga changed everything. "She is a dressage trainer, one of the top people in her field. She understands how tough it is to com-

Qualifying School and I could spend the time, when I was not playing, with her - rather than hitting hundreds of balls on the range for the rest of the day."

Johan Rystrom's renaissance came from art. A friend of Jesper Parnevik, who helps design the Swedish Ryder Cup player's clothing. Rystrom quit the tour after having three second places in 1992 and '93. "I was tired of golf and all the travelling," he said. The son of an architect, Rystrom tried drawing, unsuccessfully, "I am no good at Pictionary."

Instead, he turned to producing collages. For Parnevik's wedding. Rystrom made one with two champagne glasses and four glass strawberries glued on to a mounting. He was going to add some corks from the champagne bottles at the wedding, but "Jesper is so weird

there was only beer and cider". His favourite features a basemains the same. Coaches, man," Hawksworth said of their pete and bow to prepare for ball bat and glove from the

psychologists, physiologists and amateur days. "His attitude has tournaments. She came to the 1940s. One day he was offered of the golfing variety, had played £50 for one of his efforts and more orders followed. He put the price up to £300, but people were not deterred. Now he has 18 orders outstanding. "When I started, it was a relief

> really helped me." As for his work with the Lindburg clothing firm, his job is actually to rein in the wilder ideas of the designer. "If you don't hold him back, it would look seriously weird. He wanted Jesper to wear inch-high platform beets."

to go into a darkened room and

do something for yourself. It

At the MacGregor Challenge, a one-round event at Valderrama won by the Spanjard Ivo Giner with a 71. row the driving area. Hawksworth won £300 for fourth place and Rystrom shot 78. "I bit the ball well and putted great," the Swede said,

"but my aiming was terrible." David Lynn, whose hobby was once listed as clubbing, but not Not any more.

the England amateur team.

"I told my playing partners on the 17th tee that it was an easy hole, and that the pitch to the evitably, he took a nine on the spectacular par five, finding the water with his three-wood secfourth, a wedge shot, spin off the can thoroughbred was then rugreen back into the pond.

The hole, controversially redesigned by Seve Ballesteros ever to have left the States. and the scene of so much drama in the Ryder Cup. is to be : go the mounds and the rough 1978 World Championships in and in come some trees to nar-

par four. "Everyone who plays Valderrama will remember the 17th hole," Ballesteros, the Ry. and Derek Ricketts. der Cup captain, once said.

Philco dies at age of 32

David Broome's former mount Phileo was put down on Tuesthe Ryder Cup venue before with day at the venerable age of 32

after occupying the same stable in the rider's yard near Chepstow for 26 years.

The grey gelding, owned by green was easy," he admitted In- Lord and Lady Harris, was originally bought from Florida where he had been ridden by Rodney Jenkins. The price was ond shot, and then seeing his anot disclosed, but this Amerimoured to be the most expensive young show jumper

Philco's greatest contribution to British show jumping came in modified again by the owner of 1978 when Broome rode him to Valderrama, Jimmy Patino. Out win a team gold medal at the Aachen. Broome had the best British score in the three rounds Patino will also move the tee which decided the team title to forward so it plays as a 475-yard share a famous victory with his three team-mates, the late Caroline Bradley, Malcolm Pyrah

The previous year, Philco had won the King George V

Gold Cup, giving Broome the fourth of his six victories in this annual classic. He was also on the silver medal team in the 1977 European Championships.

Philco was given early retirement in 1983 because of heart problems. Since then, "The Arrogant Yank" (as Broome affectionately called his snooty grey partner) has led a cossetted life in Wales where he was turned out in the fields each day.

- Genevieve Murphy

TODay's NUMBER

103bn

The operating costs in yen (£490m) of the Winter Olympics in Nagano up from the original estimate of ¥76bn.

nti-smoking

bby sees red

ver Williams

Rusedski overwhelms his old friend

Greg Rusedski joined Tim Rusedski erased it with a smash. Henman in the quarterfinals of the Qatar Open last night. Rusedski defeated Karim Alami, of Morocco, in straight sets on a cool but calm evening. John Roberts reports from Doha.

They won the Wimbledon junior doubles title together seven years ago, but time has widened a gap in power between Greg Rusedski and Karim Alami. It was on the centre court at the Khalifah Tennis Complex here in 1994 that the Moroccan embarrassed an unprepared Pete Sampras in the first round of the Qatar Open. but Rusedski was too strong for his old friend last night.

The Canadian-born Briton, seeded No 1 in the absence of the injured Yevgeny Kafelnikov, secured his place in the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 7-5 victory and Thow plays the Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, ranked No 29 in the world, who beat Germany's Martin Sinner 6-3, 6-4.

Rusedski opened with an ace and then lost his serve, mishitting a forehand over the baseline and missing with a backhand volley. Alami produced a winning serve on the first point of the second game, only to lapse into errors under pressure from Rusedski's serves. The Briton was able to recover the break with a back-

From that point, Rusedski wook control of the opening set. Although unable to convert either of two break points in the fourth game, finding the net with a forehand volley and a backhand drive, he punished Alami sorely in the sixth game, breaking to love.

four points, the confidence of said. "It's not such a big deal. The his shots unnerving Alami, who lost his serve again in the eighth game. The Moroccan doublefaulted to present the set point at 30-40 and then underplayed a backhand drop shot, which floated into the net.

set to allow his opponent a to us here before." Where Ivanibrehand drive down the line. time for everything.

Alami had treatment to a leg injury during the changeover at 4-3, but continued to match Rusedski point for point until the 12th game. The Moroccan seemed perplexed when the umpire called 30-30, querying whether he meant 40-15. But his shot was clearly long. Rusedski then reached match point with a backhand down the line.

backhand secure his place in the Goran Ivanisevic's running feud with the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, may reach a new pitch - a football pitch. The reason why Ivanisevic is so keen to turn out for his home-town team, Hajduk Split, against Croatia Zagreb next month goes deeper than a boybood dream. Tudjman is the Za-

the net cord helping another

Tudjman's sporting interests also extend to tennis, and he has expressed opposition to the ATP Tour event in Zagreb being moved to Split. The row led to Ivanisevic's refusal to play in Croatia's Davis Cup tie against Finland. He plans to play in the Dubai Open the same week and, if he loses before the semi-finals on 14 February, to turn out for the last 10 minutes for Hajduk Split.

greb club's patron.

If Ivanisevic inspires as much emotion on the football pitch as he does on the tennis court, there could be a few sore heads. Such was the tension generated by his epic second-round victory on Wednesday over Switzerland's Marc Rosset, who lost after double-faulting four times when serving for the match at 5-3 in the second set, that a linesman had to run for cover.

A middle-aged Swiss spectator decided to take his frustration out on the judge by attacking him with a flag. "No action will be taken," the tourna-Rusedski also won the next ment director, Ayman Azmy, guy was carrying a Swiss flag and was a little bit upset with a call. It was funny a little bit. He was looking for Marc Rosset to win, but nobody can do everything.

the court and nothing to do the opening game of the second a big issue. It has never happened



Cedric Pioline, of France, stretches to reach a backhand during his victory against Jonathan Stark, of the United States, during the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia yesterday. Pioline won the match 6-4, 6-3

Seles withdraws from Australian Open

Monica Seles yesterday withdrew from the Australian Open and the tournament director. Paul McNamee, was unable to shed any light on the reason

Seles, 24, has pulled out of the vear's first Grand Slam event -"What happened was outside a tournament she has won four times - because of "personal rea-A set to the good after only with the play. If the guy likes to sons", but McNamee could not 28 minutes, Rusedski lapsed in sue him, he can sue him. It's not confirm whether her absence is bourne on 19 January. Mary Joe form and fitness in 1997 as his retire from his match against when they entertain Chesham connected to the health of her father and coach, Karoli, who has break point, created with a sevicis concerned, there is a first been suffering from stomach

"I don't want to speculate," McNamee said. "But I am disappointed that Monica won't be playing. She's a four-time former champion and a great friend of the tournament and Australia, She's never lost a singlés match in Australia."

joins Steffi Graf in missing the court championships yesterday. tournament, which starts in Mel-Fernandez, a former runner-up, has also ruled herself out.

The men's competition will also be missing a key player af- match needed me to be sharp pital for X-rays.

ter Yevgeny Kafelnikov withdrew early in the point and I was," he with a knee injury. The Russian said. "I honestly feel every time will miss the tournament for the I'm on the court it's a success to second successive year.

Andre Agassi progressed with ease in the traditional warm-up event for Melbourne, beating Jan Siemerink, 6-4, 6-3 .. Seles' absence means she in the Australian men's bard-

ranking plummeted to 140 late

get through the match."

New Zealand's Brett Steven earned a third-round meeting with Agassi after beating the No 2 seed and French Open cham- Newcastle United after last

Agassi, who struggled for Magnus Norman was forced to they will be the clear favourites Jerome Golmard after twisting . United in the first round of the in the year, said he was pleased his ankle in the third set. As a FA Umbro Trophy. with his performance. "The precaution, he was taken to hos-

Dalton steals lead in fight to finish

to a grandstand finish unfolding over 75 nail-biting miles as into a calm spot off Cape Reinfour boats fought to win the fourth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

As the 1,270-mile leg from Sydney drew to a close, Aucklander Grant Dalton was hanging on to a two-mile lead as Merit Cup headed for his home port, Dennis Conner, however, was just behind on Toshiba. while Paul Cayard (EF Language) was coming up fast on the outside and George Collins (Chessie Racing) was looking for a path through on the inside. Dalton had been there be-

fore. In the last Whitbread he engineered a last-gasp win into the City of Sails, pipping fellow New Zealander Chris Dickson by two minutes 12 seconds.

The leading boats had been locked in a 24-hour, non-stop struggle for vital points and places after the weather gods turned off the fan right at the northern tip of New Zealand.

All the scrambling for advantage that had gone before was thrown into the melting pot as the fleet leaders compressed and began a 220-mile dash down the east coast of New Zealand, The first to suffer was the skipper who had established what ooked like a reassuring lead.

New Zealand awoke yesterday Gunnar Krantz in Swedish Match could only watch as he ran ga while Conner held the breeze to sail through. Conner's thrill was short-lived as Dalton and Collins crept past him.

"This afternoon, as we approached North Cape, the wind died everywhere except right on the beach," Cavard said. "Merit Cup did a nice job of recognising this and she and Chessie cut inshore and passed a floundering Swedish Match and Toshiba. We followed Chessie and Merit, passing Match and closing on the pack."

All night, full crews were on deck as watch schedules were thrown overboard in the relentless battle for advantage. "We have everyone on the weather rail, all the sails are stacked on the deck and all clothing and other equipment has been stowed on the weather bunks," Dalton said. "We are taking nothing for granted. We have a real fight on our hands and we are giving it everything we have."

Knut Frostad, who is second overall on Innovation Kvaerner, was resigned to a low-order finish. "We tried hard, but have to admit that this time we didn't get it right," he said.

– Stuart Alexander Auckland

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Now back to the basics for Borough on Wembley trail

After such a hectic week, Stevenage Borough's players and fans could be forgiven for forgetting the fact that tomorrow they have a match in a competition in which they have a realistic chance of reaching Wembley.

That is not the case in the FA Cup, in which the Hertfordshire club are looking forward to a fourth-round tie against mighty pion, Gustavo Kuerten, 6-3. 6-3. weekend's heroic win at Swin-Another seed, Sweden's : don Town, Tomorrow, though,

The Buckinghamshire side are, it is believed, unlikely to offer at Stevenage's Broadhall Way ground. Instead, they will be concentrating on business on the pitch. They have drawn 10 of their 22 games to date in the Ryman League Premier Division, and they would probably be very pleased with another level scoreline tomorrow and a replay against their GM Vaux-The Meadow next Wednesday.

Elsewhere, Hereford Unit-

AROUND THE RESORTS

Street and, like Stevenage, have the distractions of the FA Cup to cope with. The Bulls play host to Tranmere Rovers in a delayed third-round tie on Tuesday.

The other Conference side left in the FA Cup, Cheltenham Town, have a tricky Trophy trip to Enfield tomorrow before they can turn their attentions to their Cup game against Reading at Whaddon Road on Tues-

day.

Woking, the Trophy holders, have a home tie against Marthis season of a big upset, following their narrow defeat to Fulham in the first round of the FA Cup. Dagenham & Redbridge, last season's beaten ficomplain about the facilities on nalists, have an Essex derby against Billericay Town at Victoria Road. Halifax Town, the Conference leaders, entertain John Burridge's Blyth Spartans at The Shay.

There will be no Wembley glory for Emley this season. The UniBond League side, who gave West Ham a fright last weekend before going down hall Conference opponents at 2-1 in a third-round Cup tie at Upton Park, have already been knocked out of the Trophy. Weather permitting, tomorrow since a 1-0 home defeat to they meet Accrington Stanley in Dartford in a third-round en- a league fixture, with television ecounter in 1972. They entertain cameras probably not present. - Rubert Metcalf

Area Last Lwr Upp open snow on an

95% 0301 25 70 Sunni spek

f years

CRICKET

Hussain finds some personal calm amid the storm

Antigua yesterday hoping for some friendlier weather in Ja- desire to achieve personal tarmaica, although showers have gets. been prevalent there as well. But due to a packed flight from the island, all the players had to leave behind their playing gear, which will be flown out this morning in time for their first net session.

However, the England vicecaptain, Nasser Hussain, is not

Test set-up, Hussain is more concerned about England beating the West Indies than accumulating a pile of runs in the coming series. With 500 since his England recall in 1996, the

England departed from a soggy bothered by the lack of practice looking over his shoulder at the and insists he has outgrown the other middle-order candidates. "I would like to get 100 in the

series because I haven't scored Now a secure member of the one against the West Indies," he said. "But I have got to the stage where I am trying to get away from personal achievements. My target is to come back to England as a winning side. It's about time we beat one of the Essex batsman is now no longer major Test playing nations and

this time." Hussain toured

Caribbean in 1990, but things did not go to plan. He slipped on a wet tennis court in Guyana and injured his wrist and it was not discovered that a hone had been broken until he returned to England almost two months later.

Hussain did, however, play two innings in Antigua in that

I think we have a real chance series, but did not manage to play a Test on the last tour in ries while Glamorgan's Matthew Maynard was given the nod. "I lot of positives, although I am still looking to improve." he said. • Further overnight rain ruled

Fu too strong

Marco Fu of Hong Kong con-

tinued his winning run through

the qualitying rounds of the Em-

bassy World Championship in

Blackpool vesterday, beating the

experienced Mike Hallett 10-2.

der-21 champion led 7-2 at the

interval and duly collected the

three trames he needed to

reach the 11th qualifying round

and edge nearer a debut in the

final stages of the £1.32m tour-

his 43rd consecutive match vic-

tory, recorded a break of 126 in

the fourth frame and then piled

on the agony for Hallett, limit-

ing him to just 76 points in the

final six frames.

The 19-year-old Fu, seeking

The world amateur and Un-

for Hallett

SNOOKER

Sports Club yesterday, with Kenya struggling on 154 for 8 1994, sitting out the entire se- in reply to England A's 402 for 4 declared. But several weeks of storms have left all the grounds have been able to look back on in the Nairobi area waterlogged the last couple of years with a and, after switching tomorrow's match to Ruaraka from the ; ed face their first Trophy tie Gymkhana Club, which resembles a swamp, organisers adout any possibility of complet- mitted further rain would also

ing the tour match at Ruaraka wash out this weekend's finale. Dulwich Hamlet at Edgar SNOW REPORT

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SPORTING DIGEST

NESDAY'S LATE RESULT: Budweiser The Brimnisham Builets 124 Chester Jets

112. Oriendo 63 Toronto 61: Washington 110 Boston 108: New York 63 New Jamesy 88 (00: Litam 59 Chicago 72: Priorita 92 Minnesota 71: San Andron 65 Denver 89: Charlotte 91 Partiand 89, Allanta 106 Golden State 86; Los Angeles Chippers 110 Varioutive 112, Los Angeles Leiers 114 Milwaukee 102.

Biathlon

f 32

STAURTON
WORLD CUP (Rubpolding, Ger): Man's 10ter;
18 Pointe (Fr) 28 mm 054 sec (nt) penally laze
eiger shooting): 2 O-E Bjorndelsen (Not) 28-85
(I): 3 R Gress (Ger) 22-24 gli. Leadering World
Cup standings: 1 Gress 1656s; 2 F Lucis (Ger)
102: 3 S Fescher (Ger) 107 Women's 7.5fm; 1
114 Forsberg (See) 23 min 250 sec (one penalty ian after chooting): 2 P Belle (Ger) 23-25
(I): 3 C Negret (Fr) 22-253 (I). Leading World
Cup standings: 1 Forsberg 95-95; 2 G Kukleva (Rus) 155; 3 U Did (Germany) 125

Gricket FLIST TEST (Kandy, Second day): Sri Lanke won 1933
SRI LANKA - First Innings
(Osmaylin 255 for 4)
M. S. Azipottu e Campbel b P Strang 223
M. S. Azipottu e Campbel b P Strang 223
H. S. Tielderstrand c and b Whitel 29
K. S. Kaluettharand c and b Whitel 29 WPUJC Wassic Renne b P Streng HALIASTRATATOR STRING & P Streng....

R S Pust palturnars not out Extras (02, 102, nbs) Total (for 9 dec) rue net bat: K.I Sika Fell (cont): 5-321, 6-383, 7-440, 8-461, 9-469. Bowling: Stress 34-11-95-2: 8 Strang 30-7-76-0 (Grb); P Strang 35-3-10-123-5; Whitel 30-4-73-3; Huckle 21-3-88-1 (Grb); Goodwin 4-2-7-0. OMEABWE - First lanings 3 J Remie not out

To best: "A D R Campbell, C B Westert, H H Stream, P A Strang, A R Whittall, A G Huckle, P A Strang Bowling: Years 7.1-15-0 (nb.1); Pushpakumara 4-0-2-0 (nb.2); Murakharan 7-4-5-1; Shis 4-3-3-1 De Shis 1-0-4-0 Umpires: & C Coorey and M J Kitchen.

SHEFFELD SHIELD (Malbourne, Second day of tour): New South Wisles 532 for 9 declared (RJ Davison 169, MJ Stater SR, CJ Richards 57. BJ Hodge 4-924; Victoria 149 for 6 (BJ EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Lake-side County Club, Frimley Green, Strivy) Second round (Wednesday): P Johnstone

Football Paris St-Germain's French interna-tional midfielder Vincent Guérin was one of three French First Division play-ers banned for 18 mortins (12 mortins

ars cannot for fermion in the means suspended for drug abuse yeatenday. Guerin, the Toulcuse defender Dominique Arribage and the Ausarre mid-fielder Antoine Stolerski tested positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone atter league matches in September. The Republic of Ireland will play Mex-ico in a friendly at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on 23 May. They are also hop-ing to arrange a friendly against Yu-goslavia at the same venue on 22 April, goslavia at the same venue on 22 April The former Barnsley captain John Saunders has died at the age of 47. He had been suffering from cancer. A central defender, he led the Tykes to promotion from the Fourth Division in 1979. He also played for Mansfield, Huddensfield, Unicoln and Doncaster. Huddensheid, Lincom and Doncaster.
AUTO Waldscheelesks SHield Guarter-final
draw. Northern Section: Biodypool v Wigan
or Rotherham, Southings v Grinsby, Nacclassiad or Preston v Manafeld; Bunky or NotsCounty v Carlale. Southern Section; Fulham
or Wycombe Wanderev u Linch or Bereford.
Bournemouth v Bristol City; Bristol Revers v Wasait; Pelanborough v Northampton or Rorgaly.
(Ties to be played week commencing Monday
28 January).

LOAN: Craig Dudley (loneard) Notts County to Strevetury.
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Finding changes: Mon 23 Feb. Liverpool v Everton (from 21 Feb.).
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Finding changes: The 20 Jent Scarborough v Torquay from 3 Jen). File 38 Jent Doncastor v Scarborope (from 31 Jen). Tue 24 Mert: Strevesbury v Lincoln City (from 3 Jen).
PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Poetponed: Solion v Notics County.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Everton's Spide (playing 20 Jen).
WETIMESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coce-Cola

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coca-Cola Cup querter-finals: benich 2 Cheleso 2 (tel ser extre inne; Cheleso win 4-1 an penalisci; Newcastle 0 Liverpool 2 (sel). Auto Windsterens Shelet Northern second round: Marsied 1 Weetnam 0. Tements Stortlish Cup Second round: Livingston 2 Bensuck 1 (Livingston at home to Albon Roused. Bell's Scottish League First Division: St Mirre 3 Morran 1 Cycle Fingston 2 Bensuch 3 (Auto Windstein) 2 Press & Journal Highland League; Handy 5 Deverorselle 2; Lossiemouth 2 Pottes 1; Peterhead 1 Cove Regions 3. Or Blarians Cup second rounds: Corby 1 Repeten 2 Parises 1; League: Doveron 1 Whitchusch 0. Sersells Direct League: Deveron 1 Whitchusch 0. Sersells Direct League: Develop Bensuch County 1 League Develop 1 (League Develop 1 Bensuch County 1 League Premier Division: Silo Cak 0 Languey 1. Postins League Premier Division: Aston

Villa () Marnchester Urd 1 First Division: Hud-derslied 1 Leiceater 3; Oldnam 1 Middlestrough 1; West Bromend: 0 Grinstry 1 Third Division: Seathorugh 1 Wigen 1; Scundrops 1 Chester-held 4 Awon Insurance Combination First Di-vision: Millwell 0 Porsmouth 0; Southampoon 1 Anseral 5; Wembledon 1 Ontord Urd 2. The Times FA Youth Cop third rostnot: Hulf 3 Bra-tol Hovers 1; North County 1 Anseral 6. In-ternational thirodly (Dusgasdougous): Bushata Faso 4 Micramboue 2; Ballian Cup quarter-fi-nals first leg: Forentina 2 Juventus 2; Parms 1 Atladrat 0. Spendah Cup third round sec-ond leg: Cetta Vigo 5 Recreation Huelve 2 (agg: 4-2); Malcron 2 Las Parims 1 (agg: 4-4, Mal-lorat with on away goald; Martids 4 Lona 1 (agg: 4-3); Racing Samarder 2. Ossarsha 0 (agg: 2-3; Heel Sociedad 4 Merez 2 (agg: 4-3); Real Zanagoza 5 Novalda 1 (agg: 7-3).

VICTORIAN OPEN (Mulbourne) Leading first-round scores (Are unless stated): 57 D Anderson, 7 Proc., T Elight 68 B King, C Taylor, S Laycock, W Smith, D Ayers, U.S., R Beglin, 69 G Chalmers, J Wagner, J Senden, M Williamson, W Grady, P Zidar, M Harwood, A Edwards

Ice hockey MEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Express Cup: Ayr Scottesh Eagles 2 Cardiff Devils 3: Newcastle Cybras 2 Sheffled Steless 3. Manchesers Stom 5 Besingstoke Bson 1.
NHL: Boston 2 Montreal 1 (oti; New Jersey 3 Phisburgh 1: Tenanto 5 Tempa Bey 2: Ottawa 2 Design 0, Exbronom 3 Piorita 2: 5i Lous 3 Vancouver 2; Buffalo 3 Anahem 2.

Rugby League Salford Reds have signed the New Zealand-born winger Phil Bergman

Rugby Union INTERNATIONAL SEVENS TOURNAMENT (Busnos Arines) Finel: Argentine 19 New

A women's Alpine World Cup downhill and a super-giant statom cheduled for 17 and 18 January at Kitzbühel, Austria, have both been cancelled because of a lack of snow. HORDIC SKIING WORLD CUP (Flameau, And: Wemen's 10m chamble style: 1 M Middelylass; (Norway) 28 mm 514 sec., 2 8 Martin-sen (Norway) 2781; 3 K Neumenou (C2 Replace 13 Women's World Cup standings: 1 Menson 15 Weight (Pus) 333; 3 A Moeniciden (Nor) 285.

Snooker SHOOKEY

EMBLAST WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Qualitying (Norbreak Castle Hotel, Blackpool) Ninth
round: N Barrow (Erd) to M Webringsin (Nett)
10-1,1 Walters (Erg) for A Cairis (Erg) 17-9. S
Reardon (Erg) for J Weston (Erg) 10-8. SWITHTHING
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Perth, WA)
Men's synchronised platform diving final: 1
S.H. Shuwa and Tran Lang (China) 26.54 2
Mikiline and J Henpel (Ser) 308.01; 3 A Variamov and 1 Coulashin (Rus) 304.02. Women's three-metre springboard final: 1 Y Pal-lanina (Rus) 544.62 2 Guo Jingung (China) 56.75
S. C. Michell (Aus): 5507. Women's water polici Russia (I) United States 4, Netherlands 3 Greece 2: Brazi 9 New Zeeland 5. Spain 5. Kazaktstan 1.

HOPMAN CUP INTERNATIONAL MIXED TEAMS TOURNAMENT (Burswood Dome. Perth. WA) Group B: France to United States 3-0 Men's singles: C Poine bi J Stark 6-4 6-3 Women's singles: M Perce bi C Fator 6-0-6-5 Doubles: Poine and Pierre to Stark and Ritts 6-4 7-6

Swimming

AUSTRALIAN MEN'S HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Memorial Drive, Adelaide) First round: G kuerten (Bra) bi K Carlsen (Den 7.6.7.5 Second round: M Escude (Fit bi 7.3 Second round: M Escude (Fit bi 7.3 Second round: M Escude (Fit bi 7.3 Second (CAR) 64.6.4 V Spadea (US) bi 5 Dossed (IC Rep) 61.6.2 L Heart (Fas) bit M Woodford (Aus) 46.7.6.6.1. State (Brazilla) M Woodford (Aus) 46.7.6.6.1. State (INC) bit Kuerten 6.3.6.3. A Agass (US) bi J Semerniz (Neth 6.4.6.9 J Galmard (Fr) bit M Norman 16.6.2 real RECEDALIAN WOMEN'S HARDCOURT

Agass (USI to 3 Series 14 feb. 2 feb.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Transpare v West Bromwich (7.45) ... LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth , Car-HARP LAGER CUP First round: Ro-hemans v Cork City (745), Drogheds v Snamrock Rovers (745); Waterlond v St Patrick's Americ (745)

Other sports

THE TRACES FA YOUTH CUP Third round: Peterborough Lited v Wycombe Wanderers (70).

DARTS: Embassy World Professional Championship (Lelieside Calo, Frank's Green, Surfey) SNOOKER: World Championship qual-fiers (Norbreck Cestle Blackpool).

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 7:1-98. The winning numbers: **7:14, 25, 32, 36, 38.** Bonus number: **44.**Total Sales: £29,900,585. Prize Fund: £13,455,263 (45% of ticket sales).

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March & Internation	499	£1,635	£815,865
March 4	28.724	£62	£1.780.888
Maten 3	529,652	£10	£5,296,520
TOTALS	558,902		£13,441,194
Camelor Group plu. Plants Further 16 a	w over	Breakage (prizos	raunded down to nearest £1;; £1

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

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be

It was another typical day in the topsy-turvy world of Tottenham Hotspur. Glenn Moore reports on a

win some, lose some day spiced with drama and controversy.

fielder, has joined Spurs on a free transfer from Internazionale, but Andy Hinchcliffe, the England left-back, failed to finalise his £3m move from Everton because of an ankle injury.

Meanwhile, in casualty. Andy Sinton, Ruel Fox and David Howells should be fit to

Drug seizure

fuels suspicion

at airport

of Chinese

suspected growth

hormones in a bag

competitors

Customs officers found

belonging to a member

yesterday for the world

championships. Ian Gordon

A Chinese team member's sim-

ilarity in appearance to a sus-

pected narcotics trafficker yesterday led customs officers at

Sydney airport to search baggage

in which substances were found

that appeared to be growth

pected growth hormones.

banned by the sport's governing

body, Fina, were discovered

when 29 members of the Chinese

team stopped en route to Perth.

The hormones were in 13 vials

packed in ice in a thermos flask

in a bag belonging to an uniden-

A spokesman for the Aus-

tralian Customs Service said

the vials had not been declared

and were clearly labelled in

building anabolic steroids. "A

team coach has said he packed

the bag," the spokesman said.

The team were released after

some members were questioned,

News of the discovery

and continued their journey.

sparked cries of "told you so"

tified female team member.

The officials said the sus-

hormones.

of the Chinese team

arriving in Australia

reports from Perth.

SWIMMING

face Manchester United to- abin at Tottenham's training morrow, but David Ginola and Ian Walker are classed as "more than doubtful".

The facts do not reveal the drama behind them. First Berti. It transpires Jürgen Klinsmann. a friend and former team-mate, was intermediary after Berti called, to say that he, too, would Nicola Berti, the Italian mid- rather try and save Spurs (and his World Cup chances) than sit on the bench in Serie A. Klinsmann told Christian Gross, the Spurs coach who, in the light of injuries to Darren Anderton, Allan Nielsen et al., decided Berti

was worth signing. But, when he faced the media at 2pm in the press Portak- good feeling for him as a play-

ground, he had no news. Berti. who missed three months with a knee injury last year, was still having a medical that began at 10am. Then an official squeezed through the throng and passed

Smiles all round, but not at Everton, Spurs, according to Gross, did not sign Hinchcliffe because of an Achilles injury which was only revealed by his agent and brother-in-law when he arrived for the medical. "He wants to sign and I want to buy him," Gross said. "I have a do the deal when he is fit in a

Spurs sign Berti but leave Hinchcliffe in limbo

Not so, said Everton, Goodison Park insiders claimed another senior Spurs official said the problem was Hinchcliffe's old cruciate ligament injury and Gross a note. He held it aloft the delay was likely to be months like Neville Chamberlain and announced: "Berti has signed". rather than weeks. There is a suspicion on Merseyside that this is a ruse to bring the fee down and, as far as Everton are concerned, the deal is now off and other suit-

> ors are invited. Marseilles have thwarted Fabrizio Ravanelli's hopes of a return to Italy, in turn scuppering plans of a move for the Sheffield Wednesday duo

er and a person. We will try and Benito Carbone and Patrick starting line-up since Ron Atkin-

Milan, looking for cover for injured Liberian international George Weah, were hoping to sign the former Middlesbrough striker, but Marseilles, who signed Ravanelli for a French record £5m in the summer, have revealed they are not happy with Milan's proposed offer. Rolland Courbis, the Marseilles coach, said: "Milan made an offer, but it was not precise enough

for us, so Ravanelli is staying." The impasse means that Marseilles are now unlikely to chase Carbone and Blondeau, who have been unable to hold down regular places in the Owls'

Tommy Johnson's proposed loan move from Celtic to Crystal Palace could break down on a technicality. The striker has held talks with Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, and is ready to complete a temporary move.

The two clubs initially agreed a six-week loan period, but Coppell has been told Fifa rules prevent it. The world governing body stipulates a three-mouth minimum on cross-border loan deals and this has caused a potential problem as the additional period would leave Johnson at Selhurst Park beyond the late March transfer deadline.

One player who is going to-Selburst is Carl Leaburn, who Charlton striker immediately

after 50 first-team appearances. Birmingham have signed left-back Simon Charlton from Southampton for £200,000. The has been on loan at St Andrew's for a month, but has now signed a two and a half year contract.

Burnley have signed striker Andy Payton in a £1m swap deal with Huddersfield. Payton is returning to the town he was born in, with Paul Barnes going to Yorkshire in a straight swap.

FA will rule today on Stevenage tie

has signed for Wimbledon. The The Football Association are to Dons are paying £150,000 for the make a final ruling today on whether Stevenage Borough are and will add an extra £100,000 to be allowed to host their FA Cup fourth-round tie against Newcastle after receiving an appeal from the Premiership club.

The FA gave the go-ahead former Huddersfield defender for the match to take place at non-League Stevenage's Broadhall Way stadium following a meeting of safety experts earlier this week.

But Newcastle yesterday complained that the ground, which will have its capacity increased from 6,600 to 8,000 for the televised match on 25 January with temporary seating, is not large enough and have faxed the FA with a detailed complaint.

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The public row that has broken out between the clubs has marred the build-up to the game and Newcastle's fans have accused their side of going "completely over the top" with their objections.

John Regan, secretary of the Newcastle Independent Supporters' Association, said: The whole thing has turned into a farce and all this bickering is taking the gloss off the tie for Stevenage. As far as the supporters are concerned, Stevenage were first out of the hat, it is their home tie, they have a safety certificate and that should be that."

In a local poll on Tyneside, 70 per cent of the club's fans backed the Vauxhall Conference side's right to host the tie.

Newcastle announced their intention to appeal against the FA's decision to allow Stevenage to host the match following a visit by their own safety officer to the Hertfordshire ground.

The Premiership club have insisted that "a ground of this size" would be "totally unsuitable bearing in mind the immense interest in the tie and the anticipated level of support from Newcastle fans for this match". Stevenage responded by accusing Newcastle of "Big Brother" tactics.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Brown, chairman of the safety advisory group which took the decision to allow the match to go ahead, maintained that everyone involved in the unanimous decision at Tuesday's meeting knew exactly what they were doing.

Brown said: "We are cleara growth hormone which can be been suspicious of Chinese swim- at. "People are saying that if a Australian team's head coach, ficials have also conducted more picions among international known until today. Although by satisfied that the ground is banned by Fina, there is no test safe, providing that certain conto detect the hormones, but cus- i ditions are met. We looked at toms officials say it is unlikely; the issue in depth and it is obtraining in Perth when news of any team members would be viously not something we take prosecuted even if testing lightly. We can assure people proved the substance to be : that our prime consideration is



Waving, not drowning: The Japanese synchronised swimming team on their way to second place at the World Championships Perth, Australia, yesterday

from those in the sport who had world record would be succeed this week. He also cautioned the had proved positive. Chinese of games in October, raising sus-result is not expected to be English as "human somatropin",

> Britain's Performance Director, Deryk Snelling, said: "It does suggest that the suspicions raised by the performances of the Chinese recently accusing them of taking drugs." had some grounds."

He warned that if they com-

reat advances in the sport. Chinese swimmer wins they Don Talbot, to "get the facts" than 650 tests in the past year. competitors. should be snubbed and everyone should turn their backs when the medal is awarded," he said, suggesting "everyone is going to be

Tianshu, declared his athletes pete, any Chinese victory or "clean" when he arrived here

The Chinese team leader, Shi

the Chinese team. tion tests on Chinese swimmers

RUGBY UNION

The Celtic nations

rounded on England's

leading clubs in unison

yesterday, accusing them

announcing their boycott

of committing all seven

deadly sins at once by

European Conference

But, as Chris Hewett

signs that the red rose

recalcitrants would be

brought back to the

negotiating table.

reports, there were clear

If nothing else, the decision of

the English clubs to tell the or-

ganisers of the European Cup

to go hang themselves seems

certain to add some spice to this

season's Five Nations' Cham-

pionship. The Scots and Welsh

left their powerful neighbours

of them vesterday: greedy, self-

serving, arrogant and short-

sighted. At times, it sounded like

an over-byped shouting match

between a pair of Don King

of next season's

competitions.

Heineken Cup and

right" before pointing the finger

at China following Talbut's pub-

licly expressed doubts about

nese team tested positive for nese swimming team were steroids before the 1994 Asian Games in Japan, two months af-Shi said Fina had carried out ter they won 12 of the 16 events appeared incredulous. more than 100 out-of-competi- at the World Championships in Rome. They swam record times in the past two months and none during the Chinese national their actual composition and the

English clubs under attack

over European boycott

the seizure came through and

The contents of the vials are yet to be analysed to establish

the negotiations hurtling to-

wards a brick wall. "We're dis-

appointed that the Heineken Cup is once again being used as

a political football, a burgaining

chip," a spokesman for the

brewing giant said. "If we can

arbitrate in any way, we will.

The French were virtually

united in their support of the

English initiative. "The English

clubs' arguments are reason-

able," said Jean-Jacques

Madrias, the president of Brive,

the reigning champions who de-

fend their title against Bath in

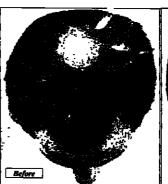
Bordeaux in three weeks' time.

This is very serious news."

growth hormones because of safety, as is the club's." the small amount found.

Long-distance man, page 23

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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3503. Friday 9 January

Plant established by parkkeeper, we're told! (9) Temporary accommoda-tion could be affected (4) 10 Metallic sound from large article coastguard's taken

aboard (5) 11 A nutter furious with Edi- 27 Definition you'd find in tor, not having been stood a drink? (9)

12 Date for bridge convention (4-3) 13 Boat propeller usually inboard (7)

Changes evident in work 2 of classical poet (13) Fletcher? (9, 4)

Glass broken by locomen 3 22 Very anxious father opposed to opening of crypt

Encouraging offer made by charming yet in Nice

25 Irish leaders King Edward annoyed (5) 26 Derby student's got into unmanned railway station

three parts, notwithstand-DOWN Sort of matchbox mostly used around east for burnt offering (S) Managed to get into Den-

mark, and had a Carls-Unusually calm reasoning

associated with a group of non-Hispanic statesmen Relative residing in Germany is more grim (7)

Early centre of Christianity you'd see going out to Chi-Painting Maisie's about to

exhibit - Sagebrush (9) Judo expert in fit of pique Very nice person (6) Figure required if taxation's to be raised? (14) 15 Modification to chancel. it's strictly required by the regulations (9)

16 In which to keep gunpowder dry? (3-5) Type that is seen wearing bifocals, for instance (7) 19 One northern area where men are sometimes silly

Teasingly mischievous in-dependent politician is last to laugh (6) 23 Watch reportedly found in oriental dish (5)

Terry Cobner, one of the more uncompromising international flankers of his day, was almost apoplectic at the English boycott of next season's Heineken Cup and European Conference tournaments, "They are attempting to put in place a

which is no great surprise be- tension talks began some time cause hidden agendas have been ago, an English withdrawal flying around all over the place would almost certainly send in recent weeks," the Welsh Rughy Union's director of rugby said, Meanwhile, Ian Rankin, coach of the Scottish district champions, Caledonia Reds, said: "This has money and per-

sonal gain stamped all over it." None of which will have worried the big-buck owners of England's Premiership clubs one little bit. The decision they took in London on Wednesday night was designed to force the board of European Rugby Cup Ltd to tear up their fixture list, scrap the six-week block-booking for Heineken and Conference pool matches and switch to a more piecemeal format, possibly based on a football-style programme of midweek Euro matches. There were strong

hints yesterday that an early agreement would be reached. "There will be a meeting of the ERC board in Dublin on 23 January and I am hopeful we in no doubt what they thought can discuss the problems again and find a solution." Alan Meredith, one of the Welsh delegates, said last night.

He was speaking in the knowledge that the English clubs held two trump cards: the reluctance of Heineken and BSkyB to pump money into a discredited and, ultimately, meaningle's competition and the voices of support flooding across the Channel.

Heineken are in the final year of their initial three-year lution." structure that best saits them, sponsorship deal and while ex-

"In order that this competition remains a proper event, it must involve English and French clubs. Without English clubs, there is no point in having a European Cup." Seraphin Berthier, who presides over the French élite rugby association CNRE, also sympathised, while Pierre

Labourdette, president of Pau, this season's beaten semi-finalists, said: "Basically, the English are right. They want a well-structured championship, as do we in France," However, he detected an element of brinkmanship in the boycott. "It's no more than a threat. It would surprise me very much if the English clubs withdrew. Among reasonable people, one always manages to find a so-

Newcastle bottle, page 24

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